

Minutes of the Fairfax County Tenant-Landlord Commission

February 12, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Government Center Conference Room 8
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Chairperson Chamberlain, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Chamberlain, Otonde

Remote:

Commissioners: Reid

Staff:

Rebecca Makely, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Amanda Kastl, Director
Consumer Services Division
Susan C. Jones, Branch Manager
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Chamberlain.

Chairperson Chamberlain notified the Commission that Commissioner Reid requested to participate in the meeting remotely.

Commissioner Otonde made the motion to approve that Chairperson Chamberlain's decision to approve Commissioner Reid's request to participate from a remote location was in conformance with the Tenant-Landlord Commission's Remote Participation Policy. Chairperson Chamberlain seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 2-0-0.

Chairperson Chamberlain made the motion that Commissioner Reid's voice can be heard by all persons at the primary meeting location. Commissioner Otonde seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 2-0-0. Commissioner Reid participated remotely from Florida.

Minutes

Commissioner Otonde moved to approve the January 8, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Reid seconded the motion. The minutes were approved, 2-0-1, with Commissioner Reid abstaining.

Report of the Director

Director Makely introduced Amanda Kastl, Director, Consumer Services Division who joined the Department of Cable and Consumer Services on January 29, 2024.

Director Makely indicated staff was in the middle of the legislative session and that an update would be provided to the Commission.

Director Makely stated the County Executive will present the FY 2025 Draft Budget to the Board of Supervisors on February 20, 2024. Town meetings will be scheduled in magistral districts, and public hearings will be held in April. The final budget will be adopted in May 2024.

Susan Jones, Branch Manager, Consumer Affairs, provided a brief overview of the events scheduled to occur during National Consumer Protection Week.

Report of the Chairperson

Chairperson Chamberlain had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Otonde inquired whether her landlord could make tenants pay for valet trash service. Chairperson Chamberlain responded if the cost was disclosed at the time of the application or at the lease renewal that the landlord could charge that fee. Commissioner Otonde stated certain times were provided for everyone to put out the trash, which gives an unsightly appearance.

Commissioner Reid mentioned a bill in legislation that enables local jurisdiction to allow standalone structures house individuals.

Chairperson Chamberlain mentioned that bill was targeting Hampton Roads area.

Old Business

There was no old business to bring before the Commission.

New Business

- 1. Tenant-Landlord 2024 Open Forum.** Chairperson Chamberlain spoke about inviting companies to the April 8, 2024, meeting for an open dialogue and to hear about fact finding market trends. Chairperson Chamberlain requested each Commissioner come up with 3 to 5 names for speakers. Chairperson Chamberlain asked staff to inquire about a larger conference room for the April meeting.
- 2. TLC Composition Code Change.** Chairperson Chamberlain stated the TLC Composition Code will be discussed at the May 13, 2024, meeting.
- 3. Nomination of Officers.** Chairperson Chamberlain opened the floor for nominations on Vice Chairperson-Tenant and Chairperson. Commissioner Reid nominated Robert Chamberlain for Chairperson. No nominations for Vice Chairperson-Tenant.

Slate of Candidates: Robert Chamberlain-Chairperson

Chairperson Chamberlain made a motion to approve the slate as proposed. The motion passed, 2-0-1 with Chairperson Chamberlain abstaining.

A motion was made by Commissioner Otonde to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Reid seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.