

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

June 16, 2009

7:30PM Conference 10
Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Adams, Bahhur,
Belkowitz, Fee, Hargraves, Mrowka,
Roark, Rosier

Absent:

Commissioners: Boyd, Douskalis, Hine,
Kirk, Nguyen,

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable Communication and
Consumer Protection
Ellen F. Posner, Assistant County Attorney
Merni Fitzgerald, Director, Public Affairs
Steve Sinclair, Chief, Public Utilities Branch
Susan C. Jones, Chief, Consumer Affairs Branch
Scotty Scott, Communications Analyst
Communications, Policy and Regulation

The meeting was called to order at 7:33PM by Chairman Fee.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 19, 2009, meeting were approved.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee discussed the passing of former CPC Commissioner Lawrence V. Fowler and all his involvement throughout the county.

Chairman Fee noted the issue regarding whether towing companies can tow vehicles outside of Fairfax County had been appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman acknowledged Lawrence Fowler's contributions to the Commission and spoke about the Lawrence V. Fowler award, which distinguishes the services of a longstanding member with a Fairfax County board, authority, commission or committee (BAC) whose exceptional service contributed to the overall quality of life in the community.

Director Liberman mentioned that the County Attorney is reviewing the issue on businesses offering discounts.

Director Liberman spoke about the DTV transition and staff's response to inquiries received.

Director Liberman told commissioners the Regulatory and Licensing Branch should have the taxicab customer survey completed soon.

Director Liberman let commissioners know that staff will be meeting with the County Executive to update him on the progress of the commission on the water rate study.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Roark had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Belkowitz had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Rosier had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Bahhur mentioned her daughter used the Internet to locate a person. She paid money to obtain the information and found that little information was provided unless she paid more money.

Commissioner Hargraves mentioned that the FCC launched the development of a National Broadband plan and is seeking public input on the plan. DCCCP staff is reviewing the comments for possible response.

Commissioner Adams had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Mrowka had no matters to bring before the commission.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Public Forum. Open discussion on whether the CPC wants to solicit public comment on water rate differentials. Staff provided key timelines on the request by the Board of Supervisors to investigate rates of water utilities in Fairfax County. In addition, staff outlined how the information could be sent to the public, how the comments can be received, and the timing of the notice.

A discussion ensued about expectation of the commission on the types of comments that will be received, focusing and promoting specific questions, the venues that can be used to provide background information to the public, and the best time to solicit comments.

Chairman Fee made the motion to solicit public comment on the differential water rates. Commissioner Hargraves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff will develop an action plan for soliciting public comment for differential water rates for the commissioner's review and approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.