

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

September 15, 2015

7:30 PM Conference 4/5
Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Callender, Fee,
Roark, Rosier

Absent:

Commissioners: Kazmi, Hargraves, Hine, Kirk,
Nguyen

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Department of Cable and Consumer
Services
Susan Hafeli, Senior Utility Analyst,
Public Utility Branch
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
Henri Stein-McCartney, Branch Chief
Regulation and Licensing Branch
Carl Newcomb, Consumer Specialist II
Regulation and Licensing Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 PM by Chairman Fee.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 21, 2015, meeting were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee stated his blocking feature is working and he is not receiving robocalls on his phone.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman stated DCCS is currently working on lines of business to present to the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

Director Liberman informed commission that the CPC Bylaws will be presented to the BOS for consideration on Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Roark had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Callender stated he is still looking into abandoned line issues in his community and will work with the Cable Inspection Branch to address it.

Commissioner Belkowitz expressed concern over the amount of solicitation activity in his neighborhood and the threat of possible criminal activity.

Commissioner Rosier mentioned an issue with a company after she ordered samples online and how she never received the product, but was charged on her credit card. She received a refund, but is concerned the company might continue to charge her. Staff suggested she file a formal complaint against the company.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

1. Human Trafficking. Liz Payne, Education Department, Fairfax County Public Schools presented a PowerPoint on human trafficking. The topics presented included: what is human trafficking, forms of trafficking, it is happening in our community, task force statistics, victim data, who are the victims, child sex trafficking, who are the traffickers, ongoing cases, community experts and stakeholders and FCPS family life education curriculum.

2. 2015 Taxicab Rate Review Staff Recommendation. Susan Hafeli, Senior Utility Analyst presented staff recommendation of no change in rates in 2015 and keep the initial drop fee at \$3.50 and per-mile charge at \$2.16. The presentation included taxicab industry in Fairfax County, taxicab annual rate review, price index, weighted changed, evaluation factors, gasoline price trends, driver licensing, regional regulated rate comparison, competition from TNCs, and other considerations.

The motion was made by Chairman Fee that the Consumer Protection Commission unofficially votes on the staff recommendation regarding taxicab rates. That recommendation is for no change in taxicab rates in 2015. Under the staff recommendation, (a) the initial, or drop charge, would remain at \$3.50 and (b) the per-mile charge would remain at \$2.16 per mile, or \$0.36 per each one-sixth mile.

Due to lack of a quorum, the unofficial vote was unanimous in concurrence of the commissioners present.

The meeting ended at 9:21 PM.