

**MINUTES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
TENANT-LANDLORD COMMISSION**

February 18, 2010

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room 9-10
Chair Liff presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners Geier-Smith, McEneamey,
McRae, Liff, Kocsis, Kiffney and Thomas

Absentees:

Gomez

Staff Attending:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable Communications and Consumer
Protection
Vee Johnson, Staff Liaison
Consumer Affairs Branch

Guest:

Cynthia Bailey, Assistant County Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 7:33p.m. by Chair Liff.

Minutes

The February 18, 2010, minutes were amended by Director Libermen and approved as amended.

Reports

- Chair Liff welcomed Cynthia Bailey, the Assistant County Attorney, and facilitated the introduction of the Commissioners.

Director's Reports

- County Executive Tony Griffin will release his Advertised Budget on Tuesday, February 23, 2010. This presentation will be televised live on Channel 16 and will be available by video streaming.

Committee reports

- The Channel 16 Advisory Committee did not have a report.

Staff Reports

- Fairfax County led the state in total foreclosures in 2009, reporting a total of 9,805 properties with foreclosure filings for the year. Prince William County came in second, documenting 7,572 properties with foreclosure filings. Virginia ranked 16th highest in the nation for 2009.
- Consumer Affairs has information on the web site about the 2010 census at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/census_website_2010.pdf. The 2010 Census Fact sheet will also be distributed at outreach events to be sure county residents are aware of the importance of the census to our neighborhoods, and reassure them that it is safe to answer the census questionnaire.
- Staff will conduct an outreach event at the Willston Multicultural Center, located at 6131 Willston Drive in Falls Church on Wednesday, 2/24/2010 starting at 5:30p.m. The audience will be parents of the children who attend the after school program in the Seven Comers area. Commissioners were encouraged to attend if available.
- There were no questions about the statistical reports.

Commission Matters

- There are currently two vacancies, one tenant and one citizen.
- The calendar was reviewed.
- Commissioner Thomas informed the Commission of a live Snow Summit on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, to review best practices and lessons learned from this winter's snow storms.

Old Business

- Assistant County Attorney Cynthia Bailey reviewed the sample lease. A discussion ensued on potential legal liability, unauthorized practice of law, educational benefits, and consideration of using other educational tools.

New Business

- Election of slate of candidates.
In accordance with Article IV of the Bylaws, an election of the following slate of candidates was conducted:

Tenant Vice-Chair	Commissioner Thomas
Landlord Vice-Chair	Commissioner Kocsis
Secretary	Commissioner Geier-Smith

A motion was made by Commissioner McEneamey and seconded by Commissioner Kiffney to accept the slate of candidates as presented. The slate was elected unanimously by the Commission. The term of each office will begin in March and continue until the next annual election.

- The Commission would like to invite a representative from the Housing Choice Voucher Program to provide a program overview. Staff will extend an invitation to Carol Erhard, Director of the Rental Services Division of the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide information for the Commission at the March meeting.
- Commissioners did not have comments or questions regarding the 2010 legislative actions currently under consideration regarding tenant-landlord matters.
- Commissioners have reviewed the county’s policy on lobbying during the 2010 General Assembly and 111th Congress. There were no questions.
- Commissioner Thomas presented draft letters regarding the 2010 Census for review by the Commission. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioner McEneamey, to send a letter to the Complete Count Committee with a copy to the Board of Supervisors of the Commission's support and desire to partner with the Complete Count Committee in getting the message to renters about the importance and benefits of the 2010 Census. Staff will distribute the letter.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.