

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

January 15, 2009

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

Attendees:

Commissioners: Kocsis, Gomez, Geier-Smith,  
Liff, Aho, McRae

Absentees:

Kiffney

Staff Attending:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:41p.m. by Chair Liff.

**Minutes**

The December 20, 2008, minutes were approved.

**Reports**

- Chair Liff commented about the challenges faced by all because of changing economic conditions.
- **Committee reports**

There were no committee reports.

## **Staff Reports**

- The next foreclosure information meeting, which provides information for tenants, is January 27, 2009. Liaison Johnson provided flyers for Commissioners to distribute within their network.
- Liaison Johnson provided an update regarding the rental policy that will allow qualified renters in Fannie Mae owned foreclosed properties to stay in their homes. This policy is expected to be fully operational before the end of January. Renters occupying any type of single-family property will be eligible including residents of two-to four-unit properties, condos, co-ops, single-family detached homes and manufactured housing. Eligible renters will be offered a new month-to-month lease with Fannie Mae, or financial assistance to help them move if they choose to vacate the property.
- The 2009 Regular Session of the Virginia General Assembly started on Wednesday, January 14, 2009. Staff will keep the Commissioner updated regarding tenant-landlord legislation.
- No questions or comments regarding the statistical reports.

## **Commission Matters**

- The attendance record was circulated and approved.
- There are currently three vacancies, one landlord, one citizen, and one tenant.
- Commissioner Geier-Smith will attend the *Virginia Landlord Year In Review Dinner* on 1/28/09. A summary of 2008 laws affecting landlords will be presented. She will share information with the Commission at the next meeting.
- Commissioners discussed the impact of the recession on rental rates and housing trends.

## **Old Business**

### 1. Tenant-Landlord brochure

- Staff will finalize the brochure.

## **New Business**

- Nomination of slate of candidates.

In accordance with Article IV of the Bylaws, the nominated slate of candidates was polled. All are willing to serve as an officer of the Tenant-Landlord Commission. The election for the following slate will be conducted at the meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2009:

Chair:	Sally Liff
Tenant Vice-Chair:	Michael Aho
Landlord Vice-Chair:	Chris Kocsis
Secretary:	Karen Geier-Smith

## **New Business**

- 2009 Initiatives. Based on the outreach plan presented by Commissioner Aho in July, the following actions will be undertaken:
  - Staff will initiate contact with the Arlington County and City of Alexandria Tenant-Landlord Commission to share and exchange information regarding tenant-landlord issues.
  - A *Consumer Focus* Program will be developed for September broadcast. Staff will submit the communication request to Channel 16. This program will explore maintenance obligations and responsibilities as it relates to housekeeping standards and landlord obligations to provide extermination services. The bed bug epidemic will be explored.
  - The Channel 16 Advisory Committee will present a menu of items the Commission would like covered in this program.
  - Commissioners will attend educational events with staff and will inform Liaison Johnson when they are available. Commissioners will clarify what role and message they would like to convey when attending outreach activities. Commissioner Kocsis will attend the tenant event on 1/29/09.

## **Guests for 2009**

- Commissioners would like to invite the following guests:
  - Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)
  - Real Estate Industry
  - Northern Virginia Apartment Association

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:04p.m.