

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

July 17, 2008

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

Attendees:

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

Absentees:

Rosier, Gomez

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 7:34 p.m. by Chair Liff

Minutes

The June 19, 2008, minutes were approved.

Reports

- Chair Liff attended a meeting of the Workforce Housing Endorsement Coalition on 6/25/08. Discussions were held regarding the need to identify policies and programs to encourage development and funding of workforce and affordable housing in this region. She will keep the Commission informed of actions relating to rental housing developments that include workforce housing.

- **Committee reports**

Channel 16 Advisory Committee - Commissioner Aho presented ideas and strategies to increase public awareness of the TLC and increase interaction and advisory role with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Commissioners reviewed and discussed the goals presented. In addition, Commissioner Kiffney suggested a newsletter and Commissioner Geier-Smith suggested a Consumer Focus program about bed bugs. After discussion, the Commission requested that staff proceed with the distribution of the TLC sign along with updated brochures and related tenant-landlord material to Fairfax County landlords. Liaison Johnson will seek to finalize this information for outreach to landlords.

Staff reports

- Liaison Johnson will conduct a brown bag lunch with Kathy Jones of the Department of Housing and Community Development on Wednesday, August 20, 2008 from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. in shared conference room 120C of the government center regarding the foreclosure crisis. Liaison Johnson will present information for renters living in housing facing foreclosure and foreclosure rescue scams targeted toward homeowners in foreclosure. Ms. Jones will provide strategies for homeowners facing foreclosure.
- The TLC calendar was reviewed. The Commission will be on summer break in August. The next scheduled meeting is September 18, 2008.
- Liaison Johnson attended an open house about proposed workforce housing to be located along Monument Drive on the Fairfax County Government Center campus on Tuesday, July 15, 2008. The project is marketed by JPI Mid-Atlantic communities. The rezoning and design development process are underway. The estimated construction start date is Spring 2010. Information about the proposed residences was distributed to the Commissioners.
- Director Liberman informed the Commission that Channel 16 Video on Demand viewers for Consumer Focus average 1.5 views per day for an average watch time of eight minutes.
- There were no questions or comments regarding the statistical reports.

Commission Matters

- The attendance record for May 2008 was circulated and approved.
- There are currently two vacancies, one landlord, and one tenant.
- Commissioner Aho commented about air conditioning complaints and shared his experience with recurrent problems with his unit.
- Commissioner McRae is currently experiencing problems with the functioning of her a/c unit and will contact Liaison Johnson if formal intervention is desired.

Old Business

1. Tenant-Landlord brochure

- Final edits are being made to the Spanish version of the Tenant-Landlord brochure by LLE based on reviews by Commissioners Kocsis and Gomez, and the County's Translation Verification Team (TVT). The TVT team was complementary of the review conducted by the Commissioners and asked that they consider volunteering to join the team. Information regarding the TVT was made available to interested Commissioners.

2. Guest Invitations

- Invitations have been extended to Supervisor Hudgins, Chairman of the Housing & Community Development Committee and John Foust, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the September 18, 2008 meeting. Liaison Johnson will keep Commissioners informed regarding the status of this invitation.

New Business

1. Tenant-Landlord Legislative Updates

- A summary of Tenant-Landlord laws passed by the Virginia General Assembly that became effective on July 1, 2008, was presented by Liaison Johnson. Copies were provided to the Commissioners along with a current copy of the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act. This information will also be e-mailed with links to the new or amended laws.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30p.m.