

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

March 19, 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, McRae

Absentees:

Aho and 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 7:39 p.m. by Chair Liff.

Minutes

The February 19, 2009, minutes were approved.

Reports

- Chair Liff commented on the challenges of the economy and the impact on companies such as the Washington Post.

Committee reports

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

Staff Reports

- The next foreclosure information meeting is May 13, 2009. Information is provided to renters facing foreclosure.
- Fannie Mae extended its suspension of evictions through March 31, 2009, for properties occupied by renters.
- During National Consumer Protection Week, March 1-7, over 130 consumers participated in events throughout the county. On Tuesday, March 3, staff provided information for renters in foreclosed properties.
- Director Liberman presented statistics from the web site. The most popular download is the Community Association Manual followed by the Tenant-Landlord Handbook. Other frequent downloads regarding tenant-landlord matters include the arbitration pamphlet, tenant resource sheet, and tenant-landlord brochure.
- Director Liberman discussed proposed budget cuts, which include the elimination of over 500 positions. Budget projections for 2011 will also incorporate cuts and/or elimination of county services and programs. The budget markup session is scheduled for Monday, April 20, at 10 a.m. The formal adoption of the budget is Monday, April 27, at 10 a.m.
- 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 shared information about bed bug treatment in apartment communities and methods used in the industry to combat this problem.
- Commissioners discussed actions taken by the Health Department and Zoning Enforcement at Vista Gardens, which is located in the Culmore area. Health and safety violations are being addressed by Fairfax County inspectors.

Old Business

- 2009 Virginia General Assembly
Liaison Johnson discussed HB 2121, which requires landlords to provide notice to tenants of foreclosure of rental properties. Liaison Staff offered to contact Delegate Paul Nichols from Woodbridge, who introduced the bill if the Commission desired more information about this legislation.

New Business

- Staff extended an invitation to the Arlington County and City of Alexandria Tenant-Landlord Commissions to come to a future TLC meeting to exchange information about activities and action of the Commissions.
- The Commission is interested in a presentation from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) but did not specify a topic. Staff will contact COG and request an overview of the forum that COG provides for the Washington metropolitan region.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.