

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

November 19, 2009

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room 4-5
Chair Liff presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners McRae, Geier-Smith, Liff,
Kocsis, Gomez. McEneaney and Thomas

Absentees:

Kiffney

Staff Attending:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:36p.m. by Chair Liff.

Minutes

The October 15, minutes were approved.

Reports

- Chair Liff welcomed the new landlord member, Michael B. McEneaney. Commissioner McEneaney is the Director of Property Management with McEneaney Associates. His company manages over 470 rentals in Fairfax County. He was welcomed by the Commission.
- Chair Liff discussed recent news relating to rising utility costs and foreclosures in the metropolitan area. Commissioners shared information about these topics.
- Chair Liff signed the memo for the Board of Supervisors about the *Consumer Focus: Bed Bugs* program currently airing on Channel 16. The report will be submitted to the BOS to keep them updated regarding activities of the TLC Commission.

Committee reports

- Commissioner Geier-Smith encouraged all Commissioners to view the *Consumer Focus: Bed Bugs* program. This program provides an open dialogue between those who have problems with bed bugs and those responsible for treatment and education efforts.

Director's Reports

- Director Liberman informed that Fairfax County is again projecting a budget deficit for FY 2011. The County Executive will present a budget in February, public hearings in early April, mark up session in late April with the formal adoption of a budget in May 2010.
- Commissioner Thomas informed that community dialogue sessions are being conducted throughout the county to gather comments from the public to help guide the making of budget decisions. Residents can also provide comments online or by calling a hotline number set up to obtain information from the public.

Staff Reports

- Liaison Johnson thanked Commissioners Geier-Smith, Kiffney and Kocsis for sharing their knowledge as landlords regarding a recent case in which a tenant was requested by their landlord to submit a W-9 IRS form in order to receive the interest on their security deposit refund. An inquiry has been made to the IRS regarding this issue.
- There were no questions about the statistical reports. Changes are underway to revise these reports.

Commission Matters

- The attendance record was circulated and approved.
- There are currently two vacancies, one tenant and one citizen.
- Commissioner Geier-Smith has requested reappointment. Director Liberman will contact Commissioner Kiffney to discuss his plans. Commissioner Kocsis will seek reappointment.
- The calendar was reviewed. No updates at this time.

Old Business

- The sample lease was reviewed. Changes and edits were made. Staff will incorporate the information. An updated copy will be forward to Commissioners for review and comments.
- No updates for the GIS map.

New Business

- DVDs of the *Consumer Focus: Bed Bugs* program currently airing on Channel 16 were distributed. Commissioners may duplicate the DVDs for distribution for educational purposes.
- Commissioner Geier-Smith will provide copies to management companies and Commissioners McRae and Thomas will provide a copy to their landlords.
- Staff is exploring the possibility of putting a link for the *Consumer Focus: Bed Bugs* program on Channel 16 on the county's Twitter, Facebook and YouTube social media sites as well as a Podcast featuring bed bug tips in English & Spanish. Staff has also drafted an article announcing the program for the Consumer Affairs e-Newsletter. Staff will also seek to distribute program information to nonprofit, faith based, and civic and homeowner organizations.
- Pat Petro, Senior Environmental Specialist with the Health Department, who made significant contributions to the planning and successful production of the program, will be using the DVD to supplement the educational tools they use to educate the public about bed bugs. They will also loan the video out to groups, tenants or homeowners desiring information about bed bugs.
- Commissioners were encouraged to explore other options for distributing information about the program through their networks.
- The Commission will hold their Annual Year End Review meeting in December. The regular meeting will start at 6:30p.m. with business concluded by 7:00p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.