

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

May 17, 2022

7:30 PM
Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Chairperson Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Callender, Fee,
Gulakowski, Hargraves, Kirk, Kratovil, Rosier,
Springer, Svab

Absent:

Commissioners: Roark

Staff:

Rebecca L. Makely, Acting Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Susan C. Jones, Consumer Specialist III
Consumer Affairs Branch
Carl Newcomb, Consumer Specialist III
Regulation and Licensing Branch
Lauren Yeung, Consumer Specialist II
Consumer Affairs Branch
John W. Burton, Assistant County Attorney
Office of the County Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Chairperson Fee.

Minutes

The minutes for the April 19, 2022, meeting were approved without objection.

Report of the Chairperson

Chairperson Fee had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Report of the Director

Acting Director Makely introduced Lauren Yeung, Consumer Specialist II.

Acting Director Makely stated the FY 2023 budget was adopted by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on May 10, 2022, with a vote of 9-1. The real estate tax was reduced by two cents. Fairfax County Public Schools received 10 million dollars from the state and that money will transfer back to the County and be used towards affordable housing. Fairfax County fully funded the Fairfax County Public Schools budget request.

Acting Director Makely reminded the Commission that the Emergency Taxicab Fuel Surcharge was approved on April 12, 2022, by the BOS to adopt an emergency uncodified ordinance for a

\$1.00 per-trip taxicab fuel surcharge to be enforced for no more than 60 days in accordance with Virginia Code § 15.2-1427, effective from April 13, 2022, through June 11, 2022.

Acting Director Makely requests the CPC consider granting approval to advertise for a public hearing at the June 21, 2022, meeting. Acting Director Makely will ask the BOS on June 7, 2022, to grant approval to advertise for a public hearing on June 28, 2022. On June 28, 2022, Acting Director Makely will read into the record the recommendation by the CPC from the public hearing held on June 21, 2022. The outcome of the BOS public hearing would go into effect on June 29, 2022, or the matter can be deferred.

Chairperson Fee made the motion that the Consumer Protection Commission authorize advertisement of a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., to consider a temporary uncodified ordinance that will provide for up to two dollars per-trip emergency taxicab fuel surcharge from June 29, 2022, through December 29, 2022. Commissioners Callender and Kirk seconded the motion.

A discussion ensued on fuel increase, the ability of the CPC to increase the trip amount, BOS ability to defer the matter, metric used, and notification to the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Matters

Commissioner Kirk spoke about on-going crime in his neighborhood with car break-ins and home burglaries.

Commissioner Rosier inquired whether Consumer Affairs had received any complaints on the baby formula shortage. Staff stated no complaints have been reported.

Commissioner Callender had an article from *FFXNOW* about Shared Mobility Devices in Fairfax County.

Commissioner Gulakowski received notice that he owed \$5,000 on his federal taxes. Verified with IRS online and the matter was resolved.

Commissioner Svab had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Hargraves stated at the BOS Public Safety meeting it was highlighted that Fairfax County as a whole has seen an increase in automobile thefts.

Commissioner Kratovil had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Belkowitz had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Springer had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Chairperson Fee had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Old Business

There was no old business before the Commission.

New Business

1. Regulation and Licensing 101. Consumer Specialist III Carl Newcomb presented an overview of the services provided by the Regulation and Licensing Branch (RALB.)

A discussion ensued on the authority to report individuals by RALB, County's awareness of public requirements and continued educational efforts and changes to Chapter 28.1.

Due to time constraints, Chapter 28.1 review will be deferred to the July meeting. The Emergency Taxicab Fuel Surcharge Public Hearing will be held on June 21, 2022. The Police Civilian Review Panel presentation will be held on July 19, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.