

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

April 21, 2016

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

Attendees:

Commissioners Fielding, Geier-Smith
Panettieri, Congleton, Gomez,

Absentees:

Park, Kocsis

Staff Attending:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
Vee Johnson, Consumer Specialist
Consumer Affairs Branch
Rebecca Makely, Fiscal Manager
Accounting and Finance

Guests:

Rachel Helfer, Housing Locator Support Specialist
Office to Prevent and End Homelessness

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Chair Congleton.

Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez and seconded by Commissioner Geier-Smith to approve the minutes from February 18, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- Chair Congleton did not have a report.

Director's Report

- In July, the Mail Room will be transferred from the Department of Cable and Consumer Services (DCCS) to Department of Information Technology.
- Director Liberman provided an update regarding the Consumer Affairs' Lines of Business (LOB) presented to the Board of Supervisors in March. The LOB presentation and Consumer Affairs' Strategic Plan were reviewed and copies provided to Commissioners.
- Fiscal Manager, Rebecca Makely provided an update regarding key components of the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Plan. The formal adoption of the budget is April 26, 2016.

Staff Report

- A case regarding a tenant facing foreclosure was summarized. Through mediation, a mutual agreement was reached. The tenant vacated the dwelling and the new owner paid the tenant \$10,000 for relocation costs.
- A flyer was distributed from Northern Virginia Association of Realtors regarding Property Management Training, which is opened to NVAR members as well as non-members.
- Staff introduced Rachel Helfer, Housing Locator Support Specialist with the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. She discussed the mission of the Housing Opportunities Collaborative, which is to connect those with the greatest housing need with landlords and property owners.

Commission Matters

- The calendar was reviewed. There were no updates.
- Commissioner Panettieri inquired if Internet Service Providers offered programs for students. Director Liberman informed that Cox has a program called *Connect2Compete* and Comcast has *Internet Essentials*, which is geared towards students and families.
- Commissioner Fielding provided a summary of the Living Well, Aging Well Summit he attended on Saturday April 16th. Resources about transportation, technology, and health and wellness were provided.

Unfinished Business

- Commissioners Fielding and Panettieri discussed the arbitration hearing conducted on March 22, 2016, regarding security deposit deductions. Based on the information provided by the tenant and landlord at the hearing, \$1,675 was awarded to the tenant. The award was paid by the landlord.
- Copies of the guide from the Northern Virginia Housing Expo on Saturday, March 19th was provided to Commissioners. Commissioner Fielding discussed the workshop he attended and his favorable impression of the annual event.

New Business

- Commissioners Fielding attended the Fair Housing Month Forum & Luncheon. He networked with Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) and suggested the Commission invite LSNV to attend a meeting to provide an overview of their services. Staff will extend an invitation to LSNV for the August meeting.
- An invitation was extended to the Department of Housing and Community to provide information about workforce housing. They were unable to attend this meeting. An invitation has been extended for the June 16th meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioners Fielding and Gomez to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.