

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

February 21, 2013

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room 9
Vice-Chair Kocsis presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners, Kocsis, Panettieri,
Geier-Smith

Absentees:

Liff, McEneaney, McRae, Gomez

Staff Attending:

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

Guests:

Margaret Squires, Fair Housing Coordinator
Human Rights Division
John Baker, Fair Housing Program Manager
The Equal Rights Center

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Vice-Chair Kocsis.

Minutes

- In the absence of a quorum, action regarding the December minutes was deferred to the March meeting.

Reports

- Vice-Chair Kocsis did not have a report.

Director's Report

- The County Executive will release the advertised budget for FY 2014, on February 26, 2013. This will be followed by budget committee meetings and public hearings. The formal adoption of the budget is April 30, 2013.

Committee Report

- Commissioner Geier-Smith did not have a report.

Staff Report

- National Consumer Protection Week is March 2-9th. A schedule of events was provided. Commissioners were encouraged to share this information as well as attend events.

Commission Matters

- The calendar was reviewed. There were no changes or additions to the calendar.

Unfinished Business

- The Consumer Focus program and the renter's PSA are complete. They are airing on Channel 16 and links will be available on the Consumer Affairs Web page.

New Business

- In the absence of a quorum, the annual election regarding the following slate of candidates was deferred to the March meeting:
 - Tenant Vice-Chair Commissioner Panettieri
 - Landlord Vice-Chair Commissioner Kocsis
 - Secretary Commissioner Geier-Smith
- Vice-Chair Kocsis facilitated the introduction of the Commissioners to our guests from the Fairfax County Human Rights Division (HRD) and the Equal Rights Center (ERC).
- Margaret Squires, Fair Housing Coordinator for the HRD, provided an overview of the fair housing services offered, which includes outreach and testing with the ERC through their HUD partnership agreement. An invitation was extended to Commissioners to attend the presentation, *Design and Construction Requirements of the Fair Housing Act* on February 28, 2013, as well as the Fair Housing Luncheon on April 11, 2013.
- John Baker, Fair Housing Program Manager with the ERC, summarized the history of the non-profit civil rights organization and discussed the importance of testing, how testers are trained, and how they enforce fair housing laws. He provided publications and other ERC material regarding education, research, testing, and enforcement programs. More resources are available at www.equalrightscenter.org.
- There were no questions about the County's lobbying policy.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.