

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

March 15, 2012

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

Attendees:

Commissioners Kocsis,
Geier-Smith, Panettieri

Absentees:

Vogl, Liff, McEneaney, Kiffney
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

Guest:

Sunny J. Thapa
Fairfax County Homeowner

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Vice-Chair Kocsis.

Minutes

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

Reports

- Vice-Chair Kocsis did not have a report.
- Vice-Chair Kocsis facilitated the introduction of the Commission and staff to our guest, Sunny Thapa. Mr. Thapa is a Fairfax county homeowner and student at George Mason University.

Director's Report

- Director Liberman did not have a report.
- Branch Chief Jones provided an overview of the events conducted from March 5-9th by the Consumer Affairs Branch during National Consumer Protection Week. All events were well attended with consumers reclaiming over \$80,000 in the event offered by the Virginia Department of Treasury, Unclaimed Property Division.

Committee Report

- Commissioner Geier-Smith initiated discussion about a new Consumer Focus program about security deposits, and repair and maintenance items. Staff confirmed that these topics remain the most frequent areas of dispute between tenants and landlords. Discussion regarding new programming and options for presenting the information on Channel 16 will continue at the April meeting.
- The Consumer Focus program about bed bugs continues.

Staff Report

- Recommendations for the Human Rights Division's Fair Housing Task Force were discussed. Commissioner Panettieri is willing to serve and Commissioner Geier-Smith will provide a recommendation for consideration. Staff will submit the recommendations on behalf of the Tenant-Landlord Commission to the Human Rights Division.
- The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness recently released its second annual snapshot of data that highlights the progress made in the second year of the plan. The ultimate goal is for every person who is homeless or at risk of being homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community to have access to housing and services by December 31, 2018. Staff will email the online link for the report to the Commissioners and guest, Mr. Thapa.
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/partnerupdate/2012/partner-update-mar-2012.htm>
- In response to the Commission's request for an update regarding the impact of the recently adopted trespass towing regulations, Dave Reidenbach of the Regulation and Licensing Branch (RALB), provided the following:
 - Eleven companies have registered and two are pending
 - Tow companies have been working with RALB to review their property signs for properties and at the release lot.
 - It will take time for the full impact of the new code to be determined.

The commission would like another update in November, 2012

Commission Matters

- The calendar was reviewed. There were no changes or additions.
- Commissioner Panettieri was reappointed to the Commission. Her commission expires January 2015.

New Business

- Staff from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), have been invited to attend the April meeting to provide an overview about redevelopment opportunities being explored by Fairfax County for the Crescent Apartments property in Reston, Virginia. This is the beginning of a multi-year process that seeks to revitalize the Lake Anne Village Center area. The Requests for Proposals (RFPs) was released last month and is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpsm/solic2.htm.
- The Utilities Branch of DCCS will provide information about ratio utility billing and energy efficiency studies at the September 20, 2012, meeting.
- No other suggestions for meeting guest were offered by the Commission.

Old Business

- There was no old business.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.