

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

May 21, 2009

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

Attendees:

Commissioners: Kocsis, Gomez, Geier-Smith,
Liff, McRae, Abo and Thomas

Absentees:

Kiffney

Staff Attending:

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

Guests:

Melodie Seau, City of Alexandria
Annabelle Fisher, City of Alexandria
Brian Gordon, City of Alexandria
William Ross, Arlington County
Kelly Pulsifer, Arlington County
Hector Contreras, Arlington County

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

Minutes

The May 21, 2009, minutes were approved.

Reports

- Chair Liff provided an overview of the Fairfax County Tenant-Landlord Commission and facilitated the introduction and discussion with guest Commissioners from the City of Alexandria and Arlington County.

Committee reports

- Commissioner Abo discussed his vision for the next Tenant-Landlord program on Channel 16, which will focus on repair and maintenance issues. Details will be discussed at the June meeting.

Staff Reports

- The next foreclosure information meeting is May 27, 2009, at the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center. Copies of the flyer were distributed to the Commissioners and guests.
- Liaison Johnson met with members of Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, a Roman Catholic Church located in Falls Church, and John Yetman with the Division of Environmental Health to plan an education outreach program for the Culmore apartment communities. The goal is to provide a comprehensive program in July featuring information from Consumer Affairs, the Division of Environmental Health, Zoning Enforcement Branch, and Legal Services of Northern Virginia. Commissioners will be informed when a date is confirmed.
- No questions or comments regarding the statistical reports.

Commission Matters

- The attendance record was circulated and approved.
- Mark Thomas was appointed by the Board of Supervisors on May 18, 2009. He was welcomed and presented with a welcome package.
- There are currently two vacancies, one landlord and one citizen.
- The calendar was reviewed. No information added by the Commissioners.

Old Business

- Director Liberman reported that staff continues to collect and input data from 2005-2008 for the development of custom GIS maps.

New Business

- Guests from the City of Alexandria and Arlington County Tenant-Landlord Commissions shared information about their experiences, trends, and issues in their communities:
 - City of Alexandria- Melodie Seau, Division Chief of the Alexandria Office of Housing presented a copy of their Bylaws, Alexandria Code, and member roster. She was joined by Commissioner Fisher and Brian Gordon, Liaison from the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington. The major issues for the Commission in 2008, involved relocation matters and voluntary rent guidelines.
 - Arlington County- William Ross, Chair of the Arlington County Tenant-Landlord Commission presented the membership roster, 2008 annual report, resolution establishing the Commission as an advisory board to the Arlington County Board, and their bilingual brochure for tenants and landlords. The major focus of the Commission in 2008, involved relocation issues.

After an engaging and informative exchange of information, community trends, and ideas, it was mutually agreed that the Commissions would meet again in May of 2010. This meeting will be hosted by the City of Alexandria Tenant-Landlord Commission.

- Liaison Johnson will present a draft of the updated sample lease at the June meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.