

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

May 17, 2012

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

Attendees:

Commissioners Kocsis, Liff, Gomez
Geier-Smith, Panettieri, McEneaney

Absentees:

McRae, Vogl, Kiffney

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Liff.

Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez and seconded by Commissioner Kocsis to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2012, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- Chair Liff discussed inviting a manager of a condominium association to talk with the Tenant-Landlord Commission about renters in condominium communities. Director Liberman will coordinate with the Consumer Affairs HOA Liaison to have someone from an association management company speak with the Commission about renters in condominiums.
- Chair Liff facilitated a discussion regarding the current housing and rental market.

Director's Report

Director Liberman did not have a report.

Committee Report

- Commissioner Geier-Smith confirmed the need for continued bed bug programming.
- Liaison Johnson suggested that a Consumer Focus program regarding maintenance and repairs be updated since the last program was taped in 2007. Commissioner Panettieri suggested the need for more information available to tenants regarding the benefits of renter's insurance. Staff will begin planning for an updated program.
- Director Liberman suggested that a PSA be produced regarding renter's insurance. Staff will look into this option.

Staff Report

- A community workshop is scheduled for Monday, May 21, 2012, to explore the future of Seven Corners and needed revitalization to maintain livable neighborhoods in the Bailey's Crossroads and Seven corners communities. Staff will provide updates to the Commission.
- Staff met with attorneys from Fort Belvoir on Tuesday, May 8, 2012. Information and material developed by the Tenant-Landlord Commission including the current Consumer Focus program regarding bed bugs has been shared. Joint educational programs targeted to the tenant and landlord communities will be explored.
- Liaison Johnson met with the National Association of Residential Property Managers on Wednesday, May 9, 2012. There was a lively discussion regarding mediation and the complaint process. The benefits of mediation were shared along with the educational information and daily advice available to both tenants and landlords.
- Liaison Johnson requested input from Commissioners regarding the early turn off of heat in apartment communities based on unpredictable weather. The consensus was that the code must be complied with, but reasonable accommodations made during extreme high and low weather temperature cycles.

Commission Matters

- The calendar was reviewed. Commissioner Kocsis is not available for the June meeting.
- There were no other changes or additions.

New Business

- Commissioner Panettieri attended the Fair Housing training hosted by the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission on Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Although the training was geared toward real estate agents and home purchases, the information was helpful. There is a hotline number that anyone can call for information. The hotline number and website for the Human Rights Commission is <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ohrep/hrd>
- Liaison Johnson suggested that an invitation be extended to Investigator Tom Polhemus with the Financial Crimes Section of the Fairfax County Police to share information about rental scams and other fraudulent activities that impact Fairfax communities. The Commission is interested. An invitation will be extended for the June or July meeting.

Old Business

- There was no old business.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez and seconded by Commissioner Geier-Smith to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.