

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

September 15, 2011

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

Attendees: Commissioners Geier-Smith, Liff, McRae,
Kocsis, McEneaney, Gomez, Panettieri, Vogl

Absentees: Kiffney, Denton

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: Dave Reidenbach, Chief,
Regulation and Licensing Branch, DCCS

Henri Stein McCartney, Investigator
Regulation and Licensing Branch, DCCS

John Fee, Chairman,
Consumer Protection Commission
Trespass Towing Advisory Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:44 p.m. by Vice-Chair Kocsis.

Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez and seconded by Commissioner McRae to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2011, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- Chair Liff thanked the Commissioners for their attendance based on the challenging weather conditions.

Director's Report

- The Board of Supervisors recently adopted the FY 2011 carryover package. This package included a 2 percent compensation increase for county employees. Funds will also be used for FOCUS, countywide cleanup and recovery efforts due to recent floods, and a reserve fund for FY 2013.

Committee Report

- Commissioner Geier-Smith discussed the positive results of heat treatment, which has proven to be a highly effective measure, in the battle against bed bugs. There was discussion regarding the many products on the market that claim to get rid of bed bugs but with questionable outcomes. The need for reliable information to the tenant-landlord community in order to detect, prevent, and control infestations remains a priority for the Commission.
- No new programming discussed at this time.

Staff Report

- A summary of a bed bug survey conducted by the National Pest Management Association and the University of Kentucky was distributed and discussed by the Commission. Not only have bed bug encounters increased but they have become more common in public places. Also, the number of calls for bed bug treatment received by professional pest management companies has increased in the past year.
- Commissioner McRae stated that the EPA continues to study this issue. She will keep the Commission updated regarding measures taken regarding bed bug control in the United States.

Commission Matters

- The calendar was reviewed. Commissioner Gomez suggested that the Commission consider an earlier meeting date in December. The meeting is currently scheduled for December 15, 2011. No action was taken regarding this suggestion.
- There were no changes or additions to the calendar.

New Business

- Dave Reidenbach, Chief, Regulation and Licensing Branch, DCCS, summarized the proposed trespass towing codes changes. The Commission discussed the code as it relates to towing and enforcement of parking policies in apartment complexes and other premises where there are rental dwellings. The revised code will provide greater protections for consumers, clarifies rights and responsibilities for property owners, and sets new fees for towing and storage services for tow operators.
- Chairman John Fee informed of the Consumer Protection Commission's support of the revised code, which requires approval by the Board of Supervisors after a public hearing.
- Commissioner Vogl made a motion that the Tenant-Landlord Commission recommend approval of the revised code, including retaining an effective date for sign requirements no later than January 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Geier-Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- A motion was made by Commission Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioner McRae that the review of the Tenant Energy Saver tip sheet resume at the October meeting.
- Commissioners were provided with compact fluorescent light bulbs for use in creating a greener environment.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez and seconded by Commissioner McRae to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.