

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

September 19, 2013

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

Attendees:

Commissioners Panettieri, Gomez,
Geier-Smith, Kocsis, Congleton

Absentees:

McRae, McEnearney

Staff Attending:

Vee Johnson, Staff Liaison
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:29 p.m. by Chair Gomez.

Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Kocsis and seconded by Commissioner Geier-Smith to approve the minutes from July 18, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- Chair Gomez facilitated the introduction of the recently appointed citizen Commissioner, Michael R. Congleton, to the Commissioners. Before retirement, Commissioner Congleton was Senior Deputy Zoning Administrator with the Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance.
- Chair Gomez encouraged Commissioners to invite colleagues to serve on the Commission. There are currently three vacancies, one tenant member, one public member (condominium owner), and one public member.

Director's Report

- There was not a Director's report.

Committee Report

- Commissioner Geier-Smith did not have a report, but shared that she received positive comments from a resident about the *Consumer Focus* program currently airing on Fairfax County Government Channel 16.

Staff Report

- Staff attended the Fair Housing Task Force Meeting on September 17, 2013. The Virginia Fair Housing Office is offering a seminar on October 23, 2013, about hoarding and the fair housing law. Attendance and registration information was distributed to Commissioners.
- A summary of two closed cases mediated by staff was presented. The first case involved a tenant's complaint that the landlord repeatedly entered the rental dwelling without notice. This matter was concluded based on court action taken by the landlord. The second complaint involved a security deposit dispute that was resolved after the landlord refunded a portion of the disputed charges.

Commission Matters

- Commissioner Kocsis initiated discussion regarding the residential studio units (RSUs) under consideration by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The first public hearing will be held on November 19th. Staff will keep the Commission updated regarding RSUs, which seek to address issues of affordable housing for all income populations.
- The calendar was reviewed. No changes or additions at this time.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Staff distributed information about the sign program that went into effect on July 1, 2013. This law prohibits the posting of signs on state rights-of-way with limited exceptions.
- Commissioner Congleton, who served on the task force regarding sign removal, provided background history. To date, the program has been successful in removing 300-400 illegal signs from major roads. He answered questions and provided an overview of the scope of the program and the agencies involved in this effort.
- Contact has been initiated with the Planning Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning regarding the Commission's request for information about the Metrorail Silver Line and Columbia Pike streetcar line recently approved by the Board of Supervisors. Staff will seek to confirm a date for the October or November meeting.
- Commissioner Congleton offered to provide an overview of hoarding trends in the County at an upcoming meeting. Staff will coordinate a date and time.
- Commissioner Geier-Smith requested information regarding reasonable accommodations for residents seeking to have emotional service dogs. Staff will seek information from the Human Rights Commission.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.