

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

June 15,2017

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room 9110
Vice-Chair Geier-Smith presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners Fielding, Geier-Smith
Panettieri, Purnell, Park

Absentees:

Kocsis, Gomez

Staff Attending:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
Rebecca L. Makely, Director
Consumer Services Division
Vee Johnson, Consumer Specialist
Consumer Affairs Branch

Guest:

Vincent Jenkins, Housing Resource Coordinator
Cornerstones

The meeting was called to order at 7:40p.m. by Vice-Chair Geier-Smith.

Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Fielding and seconded by Commissioner Panettieri to approve the minutes from April 20, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- Vice-Chair Geier-Smith did not have a report
- Vice-Chair Geier-Smith introduced Vincent Jenkins from Cornerstones.

Director's Report

- Director Liberman announced County Executive Edward L. Long Jr. will retire in September 2017. He outlined the search process underway for the next County Executive.

Staff Report

- Tenant outreach continues at the Katherine Hanley Shelter.

- " Based on increased inquiries regarding short-term residential rentals, information was shared regarding the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance, which does not permit roomers or boarders for a period less than 30 days without a special exception.
- " A complaint regarding a tenant seeking a refund of their \$550 application fee was summarized. The tenant withdrew their rental application after not being informed of a \$100 monthly parking fee for their aide, who provides daily assistance for the tenant's disabled child. According to the tenant, the landlord initially stated the aide could use visitor parking, but changed it to a monthly fee when it was time to sign the lease. After CA intervention, the landlord refunded the \$550 application fee. Commissioners and staff discussed reasonable accommodations based on fair housing laws.

Commission Matters

- " Commissioner Fielding shared information about the Fair Housing Training and Luncheon he attended in April. He also attended Celebrate Fairfax and commented on the helpful information available to residents from county agencies.
- " Commissioner Panettieri discussed the book "Evicted", which details how the cycle of eviction deepens inequalities of the poor and the working poor.
- " Commissioner Purnell connected with Nady Peralta with the Legal Aid Justice Center. She will be seeking opportunities to share their services with tenants in South County.
- " The calendar was reviewed. No updates at this time.

Unfinished Business

- " None

New Business

- Pursuant to Article IV of the ByLaws, nominations were accepted from the floor to elect a Chair for the Commission. Commissioner Geier-Smith made a motion to nominate Commissioner Fielding. Commissioner Panettieri seconded the nomination which passed unanimously. A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith to elect Commissioner Fielding as Chair. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Purnell. Commissioner Fielding was elected unanimously by the Commission.
- An election to fill the vacant Secretary position, due to Chairman Fielding's election, will be held during the August meeting of the Commission.
- " Vincent Jenkins provided an update regarding the Housing Opportunities Collaborative (HOC). He discussed incentives available to landlords to alleviate loss rent and damages to increase housing opportunities. The HOC is projected to launch in July. Information was shared regarding the success of landlord incentives in Arlington County and other jurisdictions.
- " A draft of the 2017 Annual Report was provided to the Commission for approval. The report will be distributed in the Board of Supervisors in July.
- " Commission photos were taken for 2017.
- " The Commission would like information about the Diversion First program launched in January 2016. Staff will extend an invitation for a presentation.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Panettieri and seconded by Commissioner Purnell to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10p.m.