

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

September 16, 2010

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

Attendees:

Commissioners Denton, Geier-Smith, Gomez, Liff,  
Kiffney, Kocsis, McRae and Vogl

Absentees:

McEneamey

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 7:36p.m. by Chair Liff.

**Minutes**

- A motion was made by Commissioner Kiffney and seconded by Commissioner Kocsis to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2010, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

- Chair Liff raised the issue of an apparent shortage of rental housing in Fairfax County. A discussion of occupancy levels followed.

**Director's Report**

- Director Liberman did not have a report.

**Committee Report**

- The Channel 16 Committee did not have a report.

## **Staff Report**

- Liaison Johnson attended a Bed Bug workshop offered by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on July 22, 2010. A summary of information presented was offered. Staff will email links for more detailed information for Commissioners to review. Attendees at the workshop were informed about the Bed Bug program presented by the Tenant-Landlord Commission on Channell6.
- Staff will host a Foreclosure Information Meeting with the Department of Housing and Community Development on Tuesday, September 28, 2010, in conference room 8 of the Government Center. Information will be provided for renters facing foreclosure and foreclosure rescue scams.
- Staff will present information about Tenants Rights and Foreclosure Rescue Scams at a training workshop sponsored by the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at the Department of Housing and Community Development.
- Economic Indicators provided by the Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget, based on data from the Department of Tax Administration were presented regarding foreclosure trends in Fairfax county.
- According to a recent report from Realty Trac, lenders took back more homes in August than in any month since the start of the U.S. mortgage crisis.

## **Commission Matters**

- The calendar was reviewed. Chair Liff is not available for the October 21, 2010 meeting. No other additions to the calendar at this time.
- Commissioner Geier-Smith shared information about a tenant who was recently taken by a rental scam on Craig's List. Rental scams targeting tenants was discussed. Staff provides advice and information to alert unsuspecting tenants about potential scams.
- Commissioner McRae informed of actions being considered by Administrator Lisa Jackson at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding chemical intervention for bed bugs. Because of the potential toxicity for children and older adults, more study is underway. According to Commissioner McRae, the EPA reported the highest infestation in Ohio with New York second. Planning for a bed bug summit is underway. Commissioner McRae will keep the Commission updated regarding the EPA's response to bed bugs.
- Commissioner Thomas discussed a call he received from a landlord seeking help because of disruptive behavior by a tenant's guest. Staff informed of resource information for landlords, which includes the Tenant-Landlord Handbook online. Commissioners shared their knowledge regarding this type of situation and discussed options.

## **Old Business**

- The draft lease checklist approved by Assistant County Attorney Cynthia Bailey was presented to the Commission. Commissioners will consider and provide comments by October 14, 2010, for review at the October 21, 2010, meeting.

## **New Business**

- Guests for upcoming meetings were discussed. An invitation will be extended to the following:
  - Walter Alcorn, Fairfax County Planning Commission- Chair Liff extended an invitation and is awaiting confirmation from Mr. Alcorn to provide information about the transformation of Tysons Comer. Chair Liff has also requesting someone from the Department of Planning and Zoining attend this meeting. The targeted date is Thursday, November 18, 2010.
  - Jeff Blackford, Director of the Department of Code Compliance - The Enhanced Code Enforcement Strike Team was concluded on June 30, 2010, when the Department of Code Compliance was created. An updated regarding the structure of services provided is needed.
  - Fairfax Area Disability Services Board - Staff will contact the staff liaison to the Board to request information about initiatives and activities regarding accessible housing and supportive services for people with disabilities in Fairfax County.

## **Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner McRae to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56p.m.