

Minutes of the Fairfax County Tenant-Landlord Commission

January 8, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Government Center Conference Room 8
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Chairperson Chamberlain, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Chamberlain, Otonde

Absent:

Commissioners: Reid

Staff:

Rebecca Makely, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Melissa Pickham, Consumer Specialist II
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Chamberlain.

Minutes

Commissioner Otonde moved to approve the November 9, 2023, minutes. The minutes were approved, 2-0-0.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Otonde had no matters to report to the Commission.

Report of the Director

Director Makely joined remotely and informed the Commissioners that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) had two new board members Supervisor Andres F. Jimenez, Mason District and James N. Bierman, Jr. Dranesville District. The first BOS meeting with the new Supervisors is scheduled for January 23, 2024.

Director Makely stated that the legislative season has begun, and staff will review legislation. Staff will update the Commission on the bills that staff review.

Director Makely let the Commission know that nominations need to take place two meetings prior to elections for the Tenant-Landlord Commission (TLC).

Old Business

1. **Letter to BOS.** Director Makely informed TLC that she received a response from Supervisor Gross and will provide the memo regarding the letter presented to the BOS.

- 2. Public Hearing Question.** Chairperson Chamberlain inquired whether the Chairperson has the power and the authority to hold a public meeting and request the presence of the President of Northern Virginia Realtors (NVAR) and other businesses regarding “What are we doing about rentals in the County? Director Makely explained that pursuant to Fairfax County Code Chapter 12, the Commission may hold public hearings and report its findings to the Board of Supervisors on tenant-landlord issues that affect the public interest. The TLC does not have the authority to require anyone to attend, but they can invite people. The hearing will be publicly posted.

Report of the Chairperson

Chairperson Chamberlain stated the TLC continues to struggle with their purpose. What do we do? If the TLC is not actively seeking out and trying to dive into issues, then the TLC is meeting just to meet. Chairperson Chamberlain would like the TLC to find a dedicated purpose and is hoping that holding the public hearing will assist with this issue.

Chairperson Chamberlain reiterated that he cannot compel the companies/agencies to attend the hearing, but he can invite them. If those invited decide not to attend the hearing, he can send a letter to the BOS and let them know the issues and that people do not want to have an open dialogue about these issues.

New Business

- 1. Public Hearing.** Chairperson Chamberlain would like to hold a public hearing in March from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Chairperson Chamberlain would like to invite the President of NVAR or representative, Director of Housing and Community Development Tom Fleetwood or representative, a representative of the Affordable Housing Commission, Fair Housing Chairperson or representative, Southern Management representative, Greystar representative, and a Long & Foster representative. Chairperson Chamberlain’s hope is that each representative will give a five-minute presentation with a two-minute question and answer period regarding what they are seeing in the marketplace.

The questions Chairperson Chamberlain would like covered are:

What if anything is being done at a professional level to ensure compliance with the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act?

What is being done to ensure compliance with the registered agent portion of the code?

What should we expect in the coming year regarding unit and pricing availability?

What the people believe the TLC does?

- 2. Nomination of Officers.** Chairperson Chamberlain stated since all Commissioners were not present tonight, the Nomination of Officers will be delayed until the Commission has additional members.
- 3. TLC Composition Code Change.** Chairperson Chamberlain requested that the Commissioners review the TLC Composition Code and be ready to discuss the code at the February 12, 2024, meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Otonde to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Chamberlain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 2-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.