

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

June 18, 2024

7:30 p.m.
Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Chairperson Kratovil, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Gasimov,
Gulakowski, Kharat, Kratovil, Roark,
Svab

Remote:

Commissioners: Rosier

Absent:

Commissioners: Kirk, Springer

Staff:

Rebecca L. Makely,
Cable and Consumer Services
Amanda K. Kastl, Division Director
Consumer Services Division
Tony Castrilli, Director
Office of Public Affairs
Susan C. Jones, Branch Manager
Consumer Affairs Branch
Christine Reedy, Consumer Specialist II
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Commissioner Kratovil.

Chairperson Kratovil notified the Commission that Commissioner Rosier requested to participate in the meeting remotely.

Commissioner Gulakowski made the motion to approve that Chairperson Kratovil's decision to approve Commissioner Rosier's request to participate from a remote location was in conformance with the Consumer Protection Commission's Remote Participation Policy. Commissioner Gasimov seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 7-0-0. Commissioner Rosier participated remotely from Dallas, Texas for a conference.

Chairperson Kratovil made the motion that Commissioner Rosier's voice could be heard by all persons at the primary meeting location. Commissioner Gulakowski seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 7-0-0.

New Business

1. Office of Public Affairs Presentation. Tony Castrilli, Director, Office of Public Affairs (OPA) presented an overview of the OPA including the divisions and countywide communications strategy. A discussion ensued on the most successful engagements like the opioid prevention campaign and Silver Shield initiative.

Minutes

Chairperson Kratovil moved to accept the May 21, 2024, minutes, without objection. The minutes were approved unanimously 8-0-0.

Report of the Director

Director Makely stated it was a Board of Supervisors' Committee Meeting Day with back-to-back meetings on personnel, transportation, housing, economic initiatives, and audit. Director Makely mentioned voting is taking place at the Government Center.

Director Makely stated staff goes before the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on the Administrative Item on June 25, 2024, to request authorization to advertise a public hearing on the taxicab rate increase at the July 30, 2024, BOS meeting.

Chairperson Kratovil asked for an update on Fairfax County Chapter 28.1, Massage Establishments. Director Makely stated that she is actively working with Tom Arnold, Deputy County Executive for Safety and Security and other agencies on potential changes to Chapter 28.1.

Commissioner Matters

Commissioner Gasimov had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Belkowitz discussed an article he read about a particular dark web scam. He mentioned stopping by the Consumer Affairs booth at the Gum Springs Family Reunion and Celebration.

Commissioner Roark had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Gulakowski had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Svab had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Kharat had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Rosier had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Report of the Chairperson

Chairperson Kratovil inquired about an update on a few legislative changes regarding FOIA. Division Director Kastl discussed that certain FOIA legislative changes would become law on July 1, 2024. Those changes include public bodies adopting a new policy each year as it pertains to remote participation and virtual public meetings, defining a caregiver or disability, and how remote participation counts towards a quorum.

Chairperson Kratovil asked for more information on the *Consumer Connection* Facebook Live program by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Branch Manager Jones briefly spoke on the information provided by the SEC.

Chairperson Kratovil expressed interest in receiving the analytics for the Fairfax County Consumer Affairs webpage and other sources.

Old Business

There was no old business before the Commission.

Chairperson Kratovil made the motion to adjourn the meeting without objection. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.