

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

October 20, 2016

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

Attendees:

Commissioners Fielding, Geier-Smith
Panettieri, Congleton, Park, Gomez, Purnell

Absentees:

Kocsis

Staff Attending:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m. by Chair Congleton.

Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioner Panettieri to approve the minutes from October 20, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- Chair Congleton did not have a report.

Director's Report

- The conference center at the Government Center is adding a room. Once completed, conference room 11 will be available for meetings, training and other events.
- Director Liberman announced the appointment of Rebecca Makely as the new Consumer Services Division Director. Rebecca has been with the Department of Cable and Consumer Services since 2001. Rebecca's new role combines oversight of Consumer Affairs, Regulation and Licensing, Meeting Space Management and Event Support, and Accounting and Finance into a single division within the department.
- Michelle Chmielecki, who recently joined the Consumer Affairs Branch as a Consumer Specialist, was introduced by Director Liberman. She expressed her interest in learning more about the Commission and tenant-landlord matters.

Staff Report

- A summary was provided about a complaint received from a tenant whose landlord threatened to change the locks at the house the tenant rented. The tenant requested the landlord follow court requirements to regain possession of the home. After CA intervention, the landlord confirmed the locks would not be changed and court procedures would be followed to seek possession of the house because of nonpayment of rent.
- Tenant outreach regarding tenant rights and responsibilities continue at the Katherine Hanley Shelter.

Commission Matters

- The calendar was reviewed. Commissioner Panettieri will be absent at the December meeting.
- The December meeting will start at 7:00p.m. followed by the year-end review.
- Commissioners discussed housing information and the inventory of affordable housing in Fairfax County.
- Commissioner Fielding inquired about the impact of online ride-sharing services on taxi cabs in Fairfax. Director Liberman provided information about taxi cab rates and revisions to be considered based on changes in the industry.
- Chair Congleton welcomed Amy Purnell, the recently appointed Tenant member. Commissioner Purnell shared information about her background. Commissioners and staff introduced themselves and welcomed her to the Commission.
- Commissioners whose terms expire on 1/31/2017, were encouraged to seek reappointment.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- A summary was provided regarding key tenant-landlord amendments passed by the 2016 Virginia General Assembly. An electronic copy was forwarded to Commissioners.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Panettieri and seconded by Commissioner Fielding to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.