

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

March 18, 2008

7:30PM Conference 9/10
Government Center
12000 Government Center
Pkwy. Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Adams, Bahhur,
Douskalis, Fee, Hine, Kirk, Nguyen, Roark,
Sullivan

Absent:

Commissioners: Hargraves,
MacDonald, Mrowka, Robinson

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman,
Director Cable
Communication and
Consumer Protection
Cynthia A. Bailey, Assistant County
Attorney
Susan C. Jones, Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
David Reidenbach, Chief
Regulations and Licensing Branch
Henri Stein-McCarty, CSII
Regulations and Licensing
Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:33PM by Chairman Fee.

Minutes

The minutes of the February 19, 2008, meeting was approved as amended.

Commission members discussed the desirability of staff to report findings on alternative fuel issues at a future meeting.

Commissioner Douskalis received mailings from Bank of America on unilateral issues and his concern that public awareness was needed.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee introduced Michael Roark, newly appointed commissioner from the Mount Vernon District.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman presented an overview of the budget proposal submitted by the County Executive on February 25, 2008.

Director Liberman spoke briefly on Green Taxicabs and the different options county staff is reviewing to address this issue.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Hine discussed making outreach more meaningful and relevant to the CPC. He proposed a future meeting to discuss a strategic plan for a possible CPC forum as an opportunity to make our commission and our body more relevant to the citizens of Fairfax.

Commissioner Nguyen mentioned utilizing electronic emails to communicate with the citizens of Fairfax. Commissioner Nguyen ran into Chairman Connolly at the airport and mentioned his request his information on what the CPC is doing in regards to taxicabs.

Commissioner Adams had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Roark had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Bahhur had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Kirk had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Sullivan had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Douskalis would like someone from the State Corporation Commission, Bureau of Financial Institution to come speak to the CPC on unilateral issues that major credit card lenders are passing on to consumers. Staff will handle this matter.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Hacker License Appeal

Commissioner Fee went over the special procedures for the denial of hacker's license per Chapter 84.1 of the Fairfax County Code.

The hearing was attended by Gad Girma (defendant), Raymond Klein, (attorney) and Girma Denke (defendant's father).

- Attorney representing Gad Girma provided a history of his client's life. He requested that the commissioners reinstate Mr. Girma hacker's license.
- Dave Reidenbach, Chief, Regulations and Licensing Branch, presented staff facts on the denial of Mr. Girma's hacker's license in accordance with Section 84.1-3-4(c)(2) of the Fairfax County Code.

A discussion ensued on the facts of the denial.

Chairman Fee made a motion on whether to uphold staff's decision. Commissioner Kirk seconded the motion. In favor: Hine, Kirk, Fee. Against: Adams, Bahhur, Douskalis, Nguyen, Roark, Sullivan. Mr. Girma's hacker's license will be reinstated.

2. Legislation

Dave Reidenbach, Chief, Regulations and Licensing Branch, provided an overview and status on the 2008 Towing Legislative bills.

3. Calendar

Director Liberman indicated that staff will contact the State Corporation Commission, Bureau of Financial Institutions to request a speaker for the April meeting. In addition, staff is working on providing educational information on digital television transition and could speak to the CPC concerning this information. Director Liberman stated staff will be available to update CPC on green taxicabs at the May meeting.

Commissioners agreed to delay the presentation by the cable providers until the June meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:14PM.