

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

May 21, 2013

7:30PM Conference 4/5
Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Chung, Fee, Hargraves,
Hine, Kazmi, Leppin, Nguyen,

Absent:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Kirk, Martz,
Roark, Rosier

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Steve Sinclair, Branch Chief
Public Utilities Branch
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief,
Consumer Affairs
Susan Hafeli, Utility Analyst
Public Utilities Branch
Howard Stone, Utility Analyst
Public Utilities Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Chairman Fee.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 16, 2013 meeting were approved.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee had no matters to bring before the commission.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman informed the commission that the Board of Supervisors approved the Cable Franchise Renewal Agreement with Cox Communications that will go into effect on June 9, 2013.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Hine had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Kazmi had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Hargraves had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Nguyen mentioned he was approached by a Fox TV reporter and asked if he was aware of any consumer issues or trends. He referred Fox TV to the Consumer Affairs Branch. Commissioner Nguyen mentioned that he took a vehicle for an oil change and ended up with a major issue that was not apparent when he brought the vehicle to the dealership. He may pursue the matter with the Virginia Office of the Attorney General.

Commissioner Chung had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Leppin had no matters to bring before the commission.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Taxicab Certification Presentation/Process. Steve Sinclair, Branch Chief, Public Utilities Branch, provided an overview of the Taxicab Certificate Process Code of Fairfax County §84.1. Information was shared about the industry overview, Fairfax County code, time-lines, why regulate the certificates, the Board of Supervisors model formula, number of certificates to be awarded, and Commission discussion and recommendations.

A discussion ensued on the ability to sell certificates and metro station growth.

Chairman Fee made the motion to accept staff recommendation to increase certificates by 35. Commissioner Chung seconded the motion.

A discussion ensued on Uber DC, service Uber provides and impact on taxicab industry, sedans not regulated by DCCS, environmental friendly alternatives, allocation, discretionary adjustment factor, suspension ability, and new technology.

Commissioner Nguyen made the motion to increase staff proposal from 35 certificates to 39 certificates. Commissioner Hargraves seconded the motion. The motion passed with five commissioners voting for, one commissioner voting against, and one commissioner abstained.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.