

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

April 16, 2009

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

Attendees:

Commissioners: Kocsis, Gomez, Geier-Smith,
Liff, McRae, Aho and Kiffuey

Absentees:

None

Staff Attending:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable Communications and Consumer
Protection
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs
Vee Johnson, Staff Liaison
Consumer Affairs Branch

Guests:

Conrad Egan
Paul Desjardin
Metropolitan Washington Council
of Governments
Lisa McCoy, Shelter House, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32p.m. by Chair Liff.

Minutes

The March 19, 2009, minutes were approved.

Reports

- Chair Liff summarized the scope of the Tenant-Landlord Commission and introduced the guests from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Committee reports

- Commissioner Abo will share ideas at the May meeting for the next tenant-landlord Consumer Focus Program to be broadcast in the fall.

Staff Reports

- The next foreclosure information meeting is May 5, 2009 at Centreville United Methodist Church. Information is provided to renters facing foreclosure. Copies of the flyer were distributed to the Commissioners.
- The EPA held a two-day summit in Arlington County on April 14-15th to examine the growing problem of bed bugs in the U.S. The summit looked at traditional pesticides, as well as alternative treatments, such as non-chemical heat treatments. An action plan will be developed. A news article from the Washington Post was distributed.
- Liaison Johnson attended the Culmore Apartment Managers Association meeting on April 15, 2009. Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross discussed the safety and building code inspections at Vista Gardens in March. A Corrective Work Order was issued to Vista Gardens on March 24, 2009, to correct hundreds of violations under the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code. They are required to be corrected within 60 days of the notice, or sometime in June. The letter issued by Supervisor Gross to Vista Gardens residents was distributed to the Commissioners. Liaison Johnson will be providing outreach to residents in this community.
- Commissioners were reminded to RSVP to the invitation for the Fair Housing Luncheon, extended by Margaret Squires of the Human Rights Commission, by 4/23/09. The luncheon is April 23, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- No questions or comments regarding the statistical reports.

Commission Matters

- The attendance record was circulated and approved.
- There are currently three vacancies, one landlord, one citizen, and one tenant.
- The calendar was reviewed. No information added by the Commissioners.

Old Business

- The format for collecting data for the GIS custom maps, requested by the Commissioner, has been finalized. Staff is collecting and inputting data from 2005-2008 for the development of maps. These maps will show commercial apartment properties in the County, private rentals, a map of tenant-landlord complaints, and a map of all complaints.

New Business

- Bill Ross of the Arlington County Tenant-Landlord Commissions is available to attend the May 21, 2009 meeting. The same invitation was extended to the City of Alexandria. Staff is waiting for a reply regarding Commissioners availability.

- Paul Desjardin and Conrad Egan from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments presented information.
 - Paul DesJardin, Director of Community Planning and Services, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, discussed the Toolkit for Affordable Housing Development and provided copies for Commissioners. The kit provides planning tools that can be used to preserve and promote affordable housing development.
 - Conrad Egan, president and CEO of the National Housing Conference, discussed housing and transportation trends in the Greater Washington, DC, Metropolitan Area and the cost impact on all families, but especially working families. He will provide links of studies for further review and information.

- Liaison Johnson will began an update of the sample lease for review by the Commissioners at the May 21, 2009 meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.