

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

June 19, 2008

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

Attendees:

Commissioners: Aho, Liff, McRae, Rosier,
Kiffney, Gomez

Absentees:

Geier-Smith, Kocsis

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

Guest:

Margaret Squires, Fair Housing Coordinator
Fairfax County Human Rights Commission

The meeting was called to order at 7:34p.m. by Chair Liff

Minutes

The May 19, 2008, minutes were approved.

Reports

- Chair Liff introduced Michael Kiffney, who was appointed by the Board of Supervisors on May 19, 2008, as a citizen member representative. He lives in the Springfield district. Mr. Kiffney is a graduate of the William and Mary School of Law and is an associate with Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald, L.L.P. He researches and analyzes legal issues in nationwide complex construction litigation practice.

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves and welcomed Commissioner Kiffney.

- Chair Liff will be attending a seminar regarding workforce housing and will inform the Commission of any information that impacts tenants.

- **Committee reports**

Channel 16 Advisory Committee - Commissioner Aho inquired about viewing data for the Consumer Focus program on maintenance and repairs in rental dwellings that was broadcast from October 2007 through May 2008. Director Liberman explained that because Channel 16 is a noncommercial entity, rating data is not collected. However, he will check to see what information is available for on-demand viewing.

Staff reports

- Liaison Johnson provided a viewing of the PowerPoint presentation and handouts given at the Tenant Outreach event on Monday, May 19, 2008, at Reston Interfaith Inc. Liaison Johnson will be working to schedule a tenant educational event in the Culmore area, which is in the Mason District, for the fall.
- Liaison Johnson reviewed the TLC calendar. Information and activities will be updated on an ongoing basis.
- Liaison Johnson informed the Commissioners that staff has been proactive in providing information to tenants impacted by foreclosures of rented dwellings. A press release on this topic was issued on May 20, 2008. This information was picked up by local media and was covered by WTOP. Liaison Johnson encouraged Commissioners to view the county's Web page which provides resource information regarding the impact of foreclosure.
- Director Liberman informed the Commission that the Consumer Affairs Branch was awarded the ACE award by the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators in June for events conducted during National Consumer Protection Week in 2007. Also, Channel 16 was recognized as a Honorable Mention Winner of the 2008 NATOA Government Programming Awards. Director Liberman also discussed the challenges of the FY2010 budget as a \$350 million dollar deficit is expected.
- There were no questions or comments regarding the statistical reports.

Commission Matters

- The attendance record for May 2008 was circulated and approved.
- There are currently two vacancies, one landlord, and one tenant.

Old Business

1. Tenant-Landlord program for Channel 16
 - The Channel 16 Advisory Committee will consider topics for another show. Liaison Johnson informed that the top tenant-landlord complaints continue to be security deposit disputes and maintenance and repair issues.
2. Tenant-Landlord brochure
 - The Spanish translation of the Tenant-Landlord brochure was reviewed by Commissioners Kocsis and Gomez and comments offered. This information will be reviewed by the County's Translation Verification Team to determine what additional action is needed before the brochure is finalized.
 - Copies of paper colors for printing of the brochure were reviewed. Commissioners would like to recommend that the color used for the previous publication be continued.

New Business

1. Margaret Squires, Fair Housing Coordinator for the Fair Housing Program of the Human Rights Commission provided an overview of Fair Housing Laws and provided resource information.
2. An invitation will be extended to the Supervisors on the Housing & Community Development Committee for the September 18, 2008, meeting. Catherine Hudgins is the Chairman, and John Foust is Vice-Chairman.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.