

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

November 28, 2023

7:30 PM

Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Chairperson Kratovil, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Gasimov,
Gulakowski, Kratovil, Rosier, Roark, Springer

Absent:

Commissioner: Freedenthal, Hargraves, Kirk,
Kharat, Svab

Staff:

Rebecca L. Makely, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Susan C. Jones, Consumer Specialist III
Consumer Affairs Branch
Carl Newcomb, Consumer Specialist III
Regulation and Licensing Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by Chairperson Kratovil.

Minutes

Commissioner Springer moved to accept the October 17, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Gulakowski seconded the motion. The minutes for the October 17, 2023, meeting were adopted unanimously, 7-0-0.

Report of the Chairperson

Chairperson Kratovil had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Matters

Commissioner Gasimov had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Gulakowski complimented staff and Commissioner Rosier for their efforts to recognize former Chairperson John Fee at the November 21, 2023, Board of Supervisors meeting.

Commissioner Roark had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Rosier mentioned her disappointment that some of the Commissioners failed to provide a headshot for the FY 2023 CPC Annual Report.

Commissioner Belkowitz had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Springer had no matter to bring before the Commission.

Chairperson Kratovil spoke briefly about credit repair, ways to make legitimate repairs, and illegal ways that companies use to add extra fees. Chairperson Kratovil stated this might be a topic for the Financial Scams and Fraud Committee to consider.

Report of the Director

Director Makely spoke about recent County elections. Supervisors Gross and Foust decided not to seek reelection. New Board Members Andres Jimenez, Mason District and James “Jimmy” Bierman, Dranesville District were elected. Director Makely stated the Inauguration Ceremony will take place on December 13, 2023. There will be a reception at 5:00 p.m. with the ceremony at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Forum. The new Board Members will begin their term on January 1, 2024.

Director Makely stated that Bryan Hill, County Executive, initiated a Board of Supervisors Onboarding for two days to provide a “snapshot” of each department to the new Board Members.

Director Makely informed the Commission that December 5, 2023, is the last Board Meeting of 2023. On December 12, 2023, at the Board Meeting, Channel 16 will be present retirement videos produced for Supervisors Gross and Foust.

Commissioner Rosier asked about security at the Government Center. She came to a meeting at the building and Congressman Connolly was also having a meeting. Commissioner Rosier stated one of the members said there was vehicle rolling in the parking lot outside and felt unsafe. The group left the building. Director Makely stated it is a public building, which means it is open to the public from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Director Makely stated vehicle protests have occurred and if the vehicle maintains a driving pattern in our public parking area, it does not rise to the level that the person would have to make a reservation.

Director Makely stated she met with Deputy County Executive for Safety and Security, Tom Arnold, on Chapter 28.1. He received information from Fairfax County Police Detectives regarding illicit massage practices in Fairfax County. Deputy County Executive Arnold acknowledged the list was deficient. Another meeting has been scheduled for December 4, 2023, and it will be determined whether the Commission can move forward with Chapter 28.1.

Old Business

There was no old business before the Commission.

New Business

1. Charge Up Fairfax Pilot Program. Gina Weil, Climate Mitigation Specialist, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, spoke on Fairfax County’s GHG Emissions Inventory in 2020, switching to an electric vehicle (EV), the fundamental of charging, EV charging in HOAs, program overview, HOA exploration, Fairfax County’s engagement, HOA implementation, reimbursement grant program, equity considerations, timeline, and how to apply.

A discussion ensued on level 2 charging, multifamily communities’ interest, location of possible charging stations, payment of the service, personal charging stations, grant money available, County’s ability to accommodate all applications, and common amenities allowance for outside use to generate revenue.

2. 2023 Taxicab Biennial Determination Report. Director Makley presented the staff overview of the 2023 Taxicab Biennial Determination Report which included operator and taxicab certificates required; establishment of public convenience and necessity; taxicab certificates; taxicab demand formula criteria; taxicab demand formula analysis; taxicab company data for total trips, total passengers; and total revenue; and staff recommendation.

A discussion ensued on taxicab demand formula and using the calculation of the average number of trips per certificate. Director Makley responded that the taxicab demand formula results in a recommended fleet size of 378 certificates. However, at this time the taxicab industry has chosen not requested use of all available certificates.

Commissioner Gulakowski moved to accept the staff's recommendation. Commissioner Gasimov seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0-0.

3. Nomination of Officers. Chairperson Kratovil let the Commission know that a slate of candidates were needed for elections to be held in January 2024.

The following slate was established:

Chairperson – Jason Kratovil

Vice-Chairperson – Denis Gulakowski

Secretary – Jaqueline Rosier

Chairperson Kratovil moved to accept the slate of candidates. Commissioner Springer seconded the motion. The motion passed, 6-0-1, with Commissioner Belkowitz abstaining.

Chairperson Kratovil stated without objection he will appoint Commissioner Springer as a Special Designee of Officer Selection.

Chairperson Kratovil let the Commission know that the next meeting is on December 19, 2023, and will reach out to see who is available to attend. He will follow up with staff.

Chairperson Kratovil made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gulakowski seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.