

## **Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission**

February 19, 2019

7:30 PM  
Government Center, Conference 8  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Callender, Fee,  
Gulakowski, Hine, Lynch, Kratovil, Roark,  
Rosier

Absent:

Commissioners: Hargraves, Javed, Kirk,  
Omeish

Staff:

Rebecca L. Makely, Director  
Consumer Services Division  
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief  
Consumer Affairs

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Chairman Fee.

### **Minutes**

The minutes for the January 15, 2019, meeting were approved.

### **Report of the Chairman**

Chairman Fee had no matters to bring before the Commission.

### **Report of the Director**

Director Liberman was not present at the meeting.

Director Makely discussed the following issues:

- National Consumer Protection Week Proclamation for March 4 - 8, 2019.
- County Wide Strategic Plan.
- Board, Authorities, and Commissions representative to attend the March 7, 2019, Strategic Plan meeting at the Government Center.
- The FY 2020 Advertised Budget presented by County Executive Bryan Hill will be formally adopted on May 7, 2019.

### **Commission Matters**

Chairman Fee asked the Commission to introduce themselves to the newly appointed Commissioner Jason Kratovil.

Commissioner Rosier spoke about her background and gave a brief summary of her service with the Commission since 2008 and her prior appointment on the Tenant Landlord Commission. Commissioner Rosier stated she watched to the *Consumer Connection* Facebook Live program on Federal Employee Shutdown Resources. She also spoke about thefts at her gym.

Commissioner Callender stated he lived in the Great Falls area and had worked at the Dranesville District Supervisor's office. Commissioner Callender mentioned the article on pet breeders in the packet and the lack of law enforcement. He relayed another incident of credit card fraud in Mexico six years ago and the lack of jurisdiction by Fairfax County Police to intervene.

Chairman Fee spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service on the Commission since 1997.

Commissioner Gulakowski spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service with the Commission since 2016. He spoke about Fairfax County Police interest in drone aircrafts. He announced the birth of his fourth grandchild Mason Kyle.

Commissioner Belkowitz spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service on the Commission since 2008. Commissioner Belkowitz stated he just received a new credit card due to fraud. He mentioned an upcoming event called ReelAbilities Film Festival. The opening night is March 3, 2019, and movies will run every day through March 17.

Commissioner Hine spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service on the Commission since 2007.

Commissioner Roark spoke about his background and gave a brief summary of his service with the Commission since 2008.

Commissioner Lynch spoke about his background as an attorney who lives in Franklin Farm.

Commissioner Kratovil spoke about his background in financial services and currently is the executive director at Consumer First Coalition. He talked about a new twist to identity theft known as Synthetic ID and stealing social security numbers from children.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business before the Commission.

### **New Business**

- 1. Consumer Affairs 101.** Rebecca Makely, Director, Consumer Services Division, presented the *Consumer Focus* program produced by Fairfax County Government Channel 16 on the services provided by the Consumer Affairs Branch (CAB). Director Makely spoke about CAB's mission; how to file a complaint; the complaint process; search complaint history; consumer outreach; and the data for 2019.
- 2. Remote Participation.** Director Makely explained the current CPC Bylaws that include the following provisions related to compliance with VFOIA:

- *All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3700 et seq., as amended (“VFOIA”), and except for closed sessions, all meetings shall be open to the public.*
- *The Commission and its members shall comply with all Virginia laws, including, but not limited to, the Virginia State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act, Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3100 et seq., as amended, VFOIA, and all County ordinances, and with all County policies concerning the activities of its boards, authorities, and commissions.*

A discussion ensued on unanticipated travel, flexibility, and limitations on the number of times allowed.

Chairman Fee made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gulakowski seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.