

Minutes of the Fairfax County Tenant-Landlord Commission

January 12, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Government Center Conference Room 232
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Chairperson Chamberlain presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Chamberlain, Geier-Smith,
Otonde

Absent:

Commissioners: Park, Reid

Staff Attending:

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

The electronic meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Chairperson Chamberlain.

Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith to approve the November 10, 2022, minutes as written. Commissioner Otonde seconded the motion. The minutes were approved, 3-0-0.

Report of the Director

Director Makely informed the Commission the 2023 General Assembly Legislation Session began on January 11, 2023.

Director Makely stated the County Executive will prepare the FY 2024 Budget to be presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on February 21, 2023. The BOS will host town meetings throughout the county. Budget hearings will be held in April along with a joint meeting with the Fairfax County Public School Board. The budget will be approved on May 9, 2023.

Director Makely stated this is an election year for the BOS. Supervisors Foust and Gross have announced they will not seek re-election.

Director Makely let the Commission know that Chairman McKay will host his New Year Reception on Friday, January 20, 2023, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Forum.

Susan C. Jones, Consumer Specialist III, informed the Commission about upcoming events for National Consumer Protection Week from March 6 to 10, 2023.

Report of the Chairperson

Chairperson Chamberlain provided a friendly reminder that his term and Commissioner Otonde will expire on January 31, 2023. Director Makely encouraged the Commissioners to reach out to their BOS

office regarding reappointment. Director Makely updated the Commission on Commissioner Reid's appointment as a tenant member.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Otonde had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Geier-Smith had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Old Business

- Eviction Outreach

Chairperson Chamberlain explained a tenant situation that went to court that involved the Statement of Tenant Rights and Responsibilities. Virginia Code 55.1-1204 Terms and conditions of rental agreement; payment of rent; copy of rental agreement for tenant states:

H. The landlord shall provide a copy of any written rental agreement and the statement of tenant rights and responsibilities to the tenant within one month of the effective date of the written rental agreement. The failure of the landlord to deliver such a rental agreement and statement shall not affect the validity of the agreement. However, the landlord shall not file or maintain an action against the tenant in a court of law for any alleged lease violation until he has provided the tenant with the statement of tenant rights and responsibilities.

A discussion ensued on the situation, 5 Day Pay or Quit Notice, summons in unlawful detainer, clerk's office responsibility, knowledge of the judge, and the Statement of Tenant Rights and Responsibilities with every new lease agreement.

Chairperson Chamberlain will provide draft language for an Advisory Memo to the BOS for the Commission to review at the next meeting.

New Business

1. 2023 Items of Interest. Chairperson Chamberlain spoke about TLC's purpose and suggested a draft letter to the BOS for clarification of their role.

2. Elections of Officers.

Slate of 2023 Candidates:

Chairperson - Robert Chamberlain

Vice Chairperson-Landlord - Paula Park

Vice Chairperson-Tenant - Perez Otonde

Secretary - Karen Geier-Smith

Commissioner Geier-Smith made the motion to approve the slate of candidates. Commissioner Otonde seconded the motion. The motion passed, 3-0-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Otonde and seconded by Commissioner Geier-Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.