CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS

CACHM

Reply to:

44 Capitol Avenue, Suite 301
Hartford, CT 06106
860-278-5688 x203

Next meeting
2:00 pm
Wednesday, June 16, 2010
Burroughs Community Center
2470 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport

Please mark your calendars now.

Minutes of the March 17, 2010, Meeting

The regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Council for Housing Matters was held March 17, 2010 at 30 Bank Street, New Britain, CT.

Present were: Penny Trick, Raphael Podolsky, Sandra Desrosiers, David Pels, Richard Tenenbaum, Judith Dicine and Sonja Devitt

Raphael Podolsky called the meeting to order to order at 2:12 P.M.

1. Preliminary matters
   a. The Council approved the agenda as presented.
   b. After a review of the minutes of the December 16, 2010 meeting, David Pels moved to accept the minutes. Richard Tenenbaum seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Housing Court operations reports
   a. Clerks Offices – Tabled, no representative from the clerk's office present.
      i. Update – Bridgeport Courtroom – No news on the relocation.
      ii. Update – staffing – George Papallo has been transferred from Norwalk to become the Bridgeport housing court clerk. No one has been hired to replace him at the Stamford/Norwalk clerk's office. He is therefore covering both the Bridgeport and Norwalk offices for the time being.
      iii. Other – None

   b. Housing Specialist

i. Update – staffing – The chairperson reported on an email from Cynthia Teixeira. The Housing Specialist positions have been officially reclassified as Mediation Specialist as of December 4, 2009. This is an upgrading to a higher job classification and puts them in the same category as the foreclosure mediators. There are currently three open Mediation Specialist positions. One thousand applications were received for the three vacancies. The Hartford position will be filled April 9, 2010. Judicial has not, however, authorized the hiring process to be completed for the remaining two positions – both located in New Haven.

ii. Other –None.

c. Housing Prosecutors

i. Update - Staffing issues Eastern Connecticut and Bridgeport/ Norwalk – Judith Dicine reported that there are now two vacant housing prosecutor positions. The eastern Connecticut position became open when Rafael Bustomante transferred to a G.A. prosecution slot. Bridgeport/Norwalk remains unfilled. At present, Judith Dicine is covering Rockville and Danielson. Rafael. Bustomante continues to cover Norwich and New London. Mary Card is covering Bridgeport. Stephen Szymczak (a per diem employee) is covering Norwalk.

ii. Ms. Dicine reported housing code enforcement officers are receiving training regarding procedural and process issues so as to make criminal code enforcement procedures uniform statewide. She hopes that landlord-tenant law will be included in a training session for prosecutors this summer, for which Ms. Dicine would provide the training. She encouraged attorneys present to seek certification to assist in Police Academy trainings.

iii. Ms. Dicine reported that Judicial is now computerizing the criminal dockets, including housing. She expects that the system will be tested in New Haven during the summer. When computerized, the criminal dockets will be accessible on-line.

iv. Other – Richard Tenenbaum reported incidents of foreclosed landlords collecting rent for units they no longer own. Ms. Dicine advised that landlords are not entitled to do so and such incidents should be referred to the housing prosecutor's office.

d. Judicial

i. Update – Advisory Council website – The chairperson reported that the Advisory Council's website draft has been finalized. The co-secretaries and the chair will be trained to be able to upload

materials. After much discussion, it was decided that the point of contact for email will remain as the chairperson's email address.

ii. Update – Small Claims – Tabled

iii Other – None

3. Current Pending Housing Legislation – The chairperson updated the Council members regarding several pending bills in front of the state legislature that pertain to housing matters. Council members are encouraged to provide testimony regarding relevant issues and concerns.

4. Other Business – None.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Desrosiers, co-secretary