

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS
JUDICIAL DISTRICTS OF NEW HAVEN AND WATERBURY

MINUTES

New Haven/Waterbury Sub-Committee
CITIZENS ADVISORY FOR HOUSING MATTERS
March 7, 1984

Present: Jon Alander, Hugh Jones, Pat Wallace.

1. Housing Court Prosecution Bill

Pat Wallace reported on a meeting that had taken place that morning with Chief State's Attorney, Austin McQuigan. She reported that he would have no trouble with adding language that would specify that housing prosecutors should "have a commitment to the maintenance of decent, safe, and sanitary housing." He indicated that if the bill is passed, he would set up a special unit in his office, ideally headed by someone specially hired for the job who would bring to it some special expertise. He would have no problem with the Council advising on appointments to housing prosecutor positions (this of course does not mean that our advice would be followed). There would also be a housing prosecution policy created. Should the bill pass, it would not necessarily mean that current housing prosecutors would be shifted out of those jobs.

A decision was made to support the bill and to join the Hartford Sub-Committee in asking for additional language stating that the prosecutors "to the extent practicable, shall handle housing matters on a full-time basis." Pat Wallace was authorized to send our views to the Judiciary Committee.

2. Judicial Appointment

Because Judge Harrigan's 18 month term will end this summer, a decision was made to contact him to ask whether he intended to seek another assignment. If he does, we decided to begin the process of searching out another judge to commend to Judge Spongo. Pat Wallace will contact Judge Harrigan to learn what he intends and also to ask if he would be willing to have us refer other judges to him for information. Jon Alander will assemble a list of the judges available for assignment to the Housing Session.

3. Other Legislation

It was agreed that Pat would send a letter noting the presumed drafting error in Bill 5069 which fails to change the title for the New Haven clerk's job to "clerk".

4. Research Before March 19 Meeting of Entire Council

Jon agreed to bring samples of all forms in English and Spanish. Pat agreed to check all phone books in the districts to see which list the Housing Session.

5. Appointments

Each person agreed to try to generate suggestions to the Governor of persons able and willing to serve on the Council from this area. The need to do outreach to blacks, Hispanics, and women was noted.

No future meeting date was set.

Pat Wallace