



THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS

December 22, 1986

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 22, 1986

Members present: Douglas Mintz, Raphael Podolsky, Diana Crouse, Joseph Wincze, Robert Kor, Sheldon Hosen, Aura Diaz, Melanee Harris

Others present: William Sadek, Cynthia Texeira, Marie Langan, Frances Calefiore, Dana Guiliano, Richard Preston, Yolanda Rivera, Glen Falk, Alice Bower

(1) Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. on December 22, 1986, in the courtroom of the Housing Court in New Haven. Douglas Mintz, chairperson, presided.

(2) Approval of minutes: The minutes of the June 5, September 16, and September 24, 1986, meetings were approved unanimously.

(3) Treasurer's report: It was reported that the present balance of the Council is \$524.08. The Council has sought a renewed \$350.00 grant from the CIGNA Corp. for 1987. Bills paid since the June meeting were \$810.00 for the printing of brochures and \$158.36 for duplicating and mailings. The Council's finances are:

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
<u>Revenue</u>				
CIGNA		\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
Fairfield Co. Coop. Fndtn.		1,200.00	0.00	0.00
Interest		41.03	69.91	61.63
TOTAL		<u>\$1,591.03</u>	<u>\$ 419.91</u>	<u>\$ 411.63</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Mailings				
Postage		\$ 131.56	\$ 97.52	\$ 95.51
Duplication		134.98	35.10	62.85
Receptions		125.31	155.74	95.30
Brochures		0.00	0.00	810.00
Reports		286.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		<u>\$ 677.85</u>	<u>\$ 288.36</u>	<u>\$1,063.66</u>
Balance as of....	12/31/83	12/31/84	12/31/85	12/1/86
	\$ 131.38	\$1,044.56	\$1,176.11	\$ 524.08

The printing of the brochures was funded largely from the 1984 grant of the Fairfield County Cooperative Foundation, a portion of which had not previously been spent.

(4) 1987 biennial report: The drafting committee presented its proposed report to the General Assembly. The following changes were made in the report prior to approval:

(a) Introduction: The report will acknowledge funding assistance from the CIGNA Corp. and the Fairfield County Cooperative Foundation.

(b) Part E: The last sentence of §3 will be deleted. The Council rejected a proposal to drop the recommendation that pro se assistance be provided in the non-housing court districts.

(c) Part F: In §1, the report will be corrected to note that the telephone number of the Norwalk Housing Court is now listed in the Stamford telephone book. In §3, it will be noted that the Norwalk clerk's office has recently hired a Spanish-speaking temporary clerical assistant.

(d) Part G: In §1, the report will state specifically that the Council recommends that housing court prosecutors be assigned full-time to housing. The drafting committee is to check on a report that prosecutors in Bridgeport and Hartford have been assigned some non-housing cases in the geographical area court. In §2, the report will mention criminal referrals under C.G.S. §16-262g. It will also urge prosecutors to accept affidavits directly from complainants in appropriate cases. A new section will be added urging greater outreach by prosecutors to local code enforcement agencies and police departments, particularly in outlying towns within each housing court district.

(e) Part I: After some discussion of the recommendation for a chief statewide housing specialist contained in §3, the Council voted, 5-1-1, to retain that section.

(f) Part K (Physical Facilities): The section was modified to include recommendations that (1) the Waterbury court be moved to the judicial district building in Waterbury; (2) the new Stamford courthouse be completed as soon as possible so as to permit the Norwalk housing court to move to larger quarters; and (3) private office space be provided in the Hartford Housing Court. In regard to ¶2 above, the Council chose not to make a recommendation at this time as to whether, when the Stamford courthouse is completed, the housing court should remain in Norwalk with more space or be moved to Stamford. The drafters were instructed to rephrase, but not to change the substance of, the recommendation that the Hartford Housing Court retain its present location.

(g) New section: A new section was approved on "Processing of Cases," to report favorably on the speed with which cases are processed and to include data on median disposition times in each court.

With these changes, the draft report was approved unanimously. It was then voted unanimously to print 200 copies of the report, based on an estimated cost of \$400 to \$450.


(5) Election of new officers: Douglas Mintz announced his resignation from the Advisory Council because of his recent election to the state legislature. The Council awarded him a vote of thanks for his service as chairperson since the creation of the Council in 1983. The Council then unanimously elected Raphael Podolsky as chairperson and Diana Crouse as secretary. They will begin serving when Douglas Mintz formally submits his resignation.

(6) Appointment of new Council members: The terms of all Council members expire on June 30, 1987. It was decided that the Council will survey all members to see who wishes reappointment to the Council. It will also compile the attendance record since 1983 of each of its members. Council members were urged to help identify others in their area who might be interested in appointment to the Council when new appointments are made.

(7) Meeting location: Several persons objected to holding meetings at the New Haven courthouse because of the difficulty of parking. Alternative suggestions included (a) meeting in Hartford, (b) meeting in Meriden (e.g., at the State Police Academy, where the Council formerly met), (c) meeting in a restaurant, or (d) rotating meetings between housing court districts. No decision was made by the Council, thereby leaving it to the chairperson to determine meeting locations.

(11) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Raphael L. Podolsky Secretary