



THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS

June 5, 1986

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 5, 1986

Members present: Douglas Mintz, Raphael Podolsky, Robert Kor, Diana Crouse, Mellanee Harris, Joseph Wincze, Sheldon Hosen, Edward Murtha.

Others present: Hon. William Ramsey, William Sadek, Frances Calefiore, Marie Langan, Cynthia Teixeira, Dana Guiliano, Peter Blasini, Suzanne Colasanto.

(1) Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 2:45 p.m. on June 5, 1986, in the courtroom of the Housing Court in New Haven. Douglas Mintz, chairperson, presided.

(2) Approval of minutes: The minutes of the December 19, 1985, meeting were approved unanimously.

(3) Treasurer's report: Raphael Podolsky reported that the present balance of the Council is \$1,454.19. The only revenue since the last report, other than interest on the account, was a grant of \$350.00 for 1986 from the CIGNA Corp., in cooperation with the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce. The only expenses were \$95.30 for receptions in Bridgeport and Norwalk. 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	69.81	23.38
TOTAL		<u>\$1,591.03</u>	<u>\$ 419.81</u>	<u>\$ 373.38</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Mailings				
Postage		\$ 131.56	\$ 97.52	\$ 0.00
Duplication		134.98	35.10	0.00
Receptions		125.31	155.74	95.30
Brochures		0.00	0.00	0.00
Reports		286.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		<u>\$ 677.85</u>	<u>\$ 288.36</u>	<u>\$ 95.30</u>
Balance as of....	12/31/83	12/31/84	12/31/85	5/5/86
	\$ 131.38	\$1,044.56	\$1,176.01	\$1,454.19

(4) 1987 biennial report: Doug Mintz proposed that the Advisory Council hold a series of public hearings to gather information for its 1987 report to the General Assembly. Several people expressed doubt about the value of such hearings. Similar hearings were held in Hartford in 1979 or 1980. Suggestions were made that the hearings should be targetted to include particular witnesses whose views would be especially helpful to the Council. Groups mentioned included housing court staff, present and past housing court judges, housing code officials, the Judicial Department's Director of Court Operations, lawyers who practice in the court extensively, and agencies which make referrals to the housing court. It was pointed out that the Hartford-New Britain Council did a written survey of lawyers and litigants in 1980.

After discussion, it was decided that the Council should hold three hearings in September -- one each in Hartford, New Haven, and Norwalk. The three area subcommittees will be responsible for their respective hearings. The Council will identify particular groups whose testimony would be especially valuable, invite them to speak, and set aside the first portion of each hearing for them. The matter was then referred to the Executive Committee for implementation.

(5) 1986 legislative session: Raphael Podolsky reported on 1986 legislative action affecting the housing court. He said that money was included in the budget for a fourth housing code prosecutor to cover eastern Connecticut. In addition, funding was provided for making the Hartford-New Britain prosecutor position permanent (it is now per diem only, which means that the prosecutor has no job security and no benefits) and for clerical support for housing prosecutors. A bill which would have funded three additional housing specialists to serve the non-housing court districts died in the Judiciary Committee. Two bills will affect housing court procedures slightly. P.A. 86-286 (S.B. 476) permits a notice to quit to be addressed to the "occupant" if the landlord cannot learn the occupant's name. P.A. 86-267 (H.B. 5874) changes the procedure in an eviction case for obtaining an order to have the tenant make use and occupancy payments to the court.

(6) Personel changes: Dana Guiliano was introduced as the new housing court clerk in Waterbury. She replaces Paul Marzinatto. Her background includes private legal practice (some of which was in the housing area) and previous work as a judicial clerk in Waterbury. She also worked in the law clinic while in law school. Two new housing court judges also began assignments last January -- Hon. Thomas West in the Bridgeport-Norwalk Housing Court and Hon. William Ramsey in the New Haven-Waterbury Housing Court.

(7) Maloney Report: Douglas Mintz reviewed Judge Maloney's report to the Chief Court Administrator. The report endorses many of the Council's recommendations. The chairperson will speak with Judge Ment about implementing the recommendations.

(8) Brochures: The brochures are almost ready to go to the printer. The Executive Committee has approved final wording in English, and a Spanish translation has been prepared. Joseph Wincze was assigned the task of putting them in print-ready form. The Council has already authorized the expenditure of \$810 for the printing of 5,000 brochures for each housing court district.

(9) Subcommittee reports:

(a) Hartford-New Britain: Bob Kor reported that the subcommittee held a meeting with Judge Goldstein at which the judge talked about his views of the housing court. About 15-20 people attended.

(b) New Haven-Waterbury: Sheldon Hosen reported that there had been no subcommittee activity. The subcommittee was asked to organize a reception in honor of Judge Ramsey.

(c) Bridgeport-Norwalk: Joe Wincze reported that receptions were held for Judge West March 19 in Bridgeport and March 20 in Norwalk. About 35 people attended each one. They were each co-sponsored by a local agency. He has also spoken with Judge West about problems of Hispanic access to the court, and Judge West has proved to be receptive. Joe has also spoken with the Judicial Department about a toll-free telephone line from Stamford to the Norwalk clerk's office. The Department has requested data on the number of Stamford cases. Bill Sadek was asked to help obtain information on the distribution of Norwalk cases by town of origin.

Doug Mintz reported that the Norwalk court is being moved into the former jury room. While the room is nice, it is too small for the housing court. The Council has previously protested this change, but the Judicial Department rejected its recommendation. The Department is apparently planning to retain this arrangement until the new addition to the Stamford courthouse is completed in about 1990, when the housing court may be moved to Stamford. It was suggested that the Council include in its 1987 report recommendations on Stamford vs. Norwalk as a housing court location.

(10) Meeting location: Bob Kor suggested that the Council's meeting location be returned to Meriden, where it is much easier to park. He noted that the New Haven meetings have failed to draw Advisory Council members from New Haven. Others argued that New Haven was more central. Chairperson Mintz stated that meetings would continue to be held at the New Haven Housing Court.

(11) Housing specialists: Frances Calefiore reported that the housing specialists were reexamining the minimum qualifications for the housing specialist position and were likely to suggest some changes, e.g., regarding the possible requirement of a bachelor's degree. There is not as yet a consensus position among the specialists. The Council requested that it be included in any such discussions. The Council has objected to overly restrictive qualifications for the position ever since the Judicial Department imposed them several years ago without prior consultation with the Council.

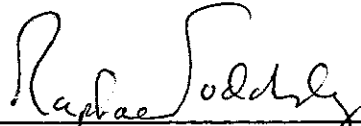
(11) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Post-meeting additions:

(12) Hartford-New Britain housing court judge: Based on information that Judge Goldstein is interested in retaining the Hartford Housing Court assignment, the Hartford-New Britain Subcommittee unanimously recommended his reappointment to that court for the term beginning September 1, 1986. Doug Mintz and Bob Kor were asked to convey the recommendation to Judge Ment.

(13) Executive Committee meeting: The next meeting of the Executive Committee has been scheduled for the New Haven Housing Court at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25). The Executive Committee meeting is open, and all interested persons are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,



Raphael L. Podolsky, Secretary