



# CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



Reply to:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF December 15, 1988

Members present: See attached attendance sheet.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m.
2. Minutes: The minutes of the October 13, 1988, meeting were approved, except that §4(b)(2)(b) on p. 2 of the minutes was corrected to read:

Coverage of Non-Housing Court Districts: It was reported that the Hartford prosecutor is now covering Middletown as well and the New Haven prosecutor is now covering Meriden, but Litchfield, Danbury, and Ansonia-Milford remain uncovered. The Council continues to support 100% coverage throughout the state.

3. Financial Report: Kenneth White reported that the Council's treasury balance is \$431.61.
4. Judicial Assignments and Open Houses: It was reported that the New Haven-Waterbury Subcommittee, in lieu of an open house, held a lunch meeting with Judge DeMayo. Judge DeMayo suggested the need for an amplifying system in the courtroom because it is hard to hear litigants. The court used to have one, but Judge Ramsey did not use it and it was subsequently stolen.
5. Biennial report: The Council's biennial report was approved, subject to editorial revision by the chairperson, with the following changes from the draft report:

Page	Section	Change
3	E(1)	Paragraphs 1 and 2 should note that the New Haven prosecutor now handles Meriden cases.
4	E(2)	The section should note that efforts are being made to coordinate summary process calendars and to make clear that improved calendaring is the responsibility of the G.A. clerks, not the housing specialists.
4	E(2)	A paragraph should be added noting that some judges in the G.A. courts are not referring cases to the housing specialists for pre-trial mediation and that the Judicial Department should make such judges aware of those standard procedures.
4	E(4)	Language should be added recommending that the Judge's Bench Book be reviewed by the Judicial Department to see that it contains an adequate section on current housing law.
5	E(5)	The report should note that training of G.A. clerks has already been conducted. The section should recommend on-going training, including (a) training of newly-hired clerk's office employees, with the G.A. clerk notifying

- the Deputy Director for Housing Matters so that training can be provided, and (b) encouragement to G.A. clerks to contact the Deputy Director about housing-related problems.
- 5 E(6) Legislation creating an eastern Connecticut housing court should not take effect until 1992, so as to give time for further study of details by a joint Judicial Department/General Assembly/public committee, including where the court will sit. The report should leave open whether J.D. New London cases should be heard in one or two locations and whether J.D. Middlesex should be included in the court.
- 7 F(1) The recommendation on additional blue pages listings should also include the non-housing court districts.
- 9 G(1) A paragraph should be added supporting efforts by the Chief State's Attorney to make clear that towns have the authority to impose substantial sanctions for violations of their local housing codes.
- 9 G(2) The report should acknowledge that prosecutors have made contact with CHRO, the Attorney General's Office, and some local fair rent commissions.
- 9 G(2) The report should add a paragraph recommending that the J.D. State's Attorneys make an investigator available to the local housing prosecutor for major prosecutions or when a complaint is taken directly from a victim.
- 10 G(3) The report should specify that, when a housing case goes to jury trial, the case should be treated as a J.D.-level case for jury selection purposes.
- 10 G(5) A recommendation should be added that the housing prosecutors should meet regularly with the Council.
- 11 H(1)(b) The report should note that staff shortages are having an adverse impact on case-processing and not merely on pro se litigants. In addition, a recommendation should be added that the hiring freeze be waived as to clerical staff hiring in the housing court clerk's offices.
- 11 H(1)(d) A second full-time judge should be assigned to the Hartford-New Britain Housing Court.
- 12 J The report should endorse a move of the Norwalk Housing Court to the new Stamford courthouse and, in the interim, a move of the Norwalk Housing Court to larger space within its present building.
- 12 J The report should recommend use of a microphone and acoustical improvements in the New Haven courtroom, rather than a move to a different courtroom.
- 12 J Recommendations should be added on private space with a telephone for housing specialists in Rockville, Winsted, Meriden, and Danielson.
- 12 J The recommendation on parking spaces for the New Haven housing specialists should be expanded to cover all housing specialists.
- 12 J The report should make clear that the Council recommends that the Council be brought into discussions of space remodeling, space design, and court relocation at an early stage in the proceedings.
- 13 K The section on case processing should stress that staff

14 L(2) shortages have resulted in slower case processing.  
The section on housing specialist forms should be deleted.

6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

/s/ Raphael L. Podolsky  
Chairperson

ATTENDANCE LIST -- December 15, 1988

Council members

Ann Crouse  
Diana Crouse  
Morris Czaczkes  
Samuel Deibler  
Aura Diaz  
Elaine DiNigris  
Bruce Fontanella  
Linda Francois  
Joelen Gates  
Sr. Suzanne Gebrian  
Mellanee Harris  
Sheldon Hosen  
Robert Kor  
Susan Manchester  
Rick Margenot  
Betty McKee  
Raphael Podolsky  
Peter Rotella  
Walter Simmers  
Richard Tenenbaum  
Kevin Tierney  
Fred Wallace  
Lynn Waters  
Kenneth White  
Joe Zibbiddeo

Others present

William Sadek  
Frances Calafiore  
Margaret Flynn