



CITIZENS ADVISORY  
COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



Reply to: 80 Jefferson St.  
Hartford, CT. 06106  
Phone: (203) 278-5688  
Fax: (203) 278-2957

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 1995**

**Present:** Robin J. Hammeal-Urban, Richard Tenenbaum, Nadine Baldetti, Jane Courville, Sister Susanne Gebrian, Peter Rotella, Morris Czaczkes, Houston Putnam Lowry, Suzanne Colasanto, Vic Feigenbaum, Mike Ayala, Ivan Hirsch, Joe Wincze, Rachel Heerema, Raphael Podolsky, Carmen Reyes Neale, David A. Pels, Carolyn Comerford, Chip Haslun, Sheldon Hosen, Linda Francois.

**1. Preliminary Matters**

a. Call to Order and Agenda: the meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m. The agenda was approved as written.

b. The minutes of the meeting of December 8, 1994 were approved with the following additions: Cynthia Teixeira and David Pels were added to the list of guests and those present.

**2. Old Business**

a. Computer related issues (Houston Lowry)

1. Law Office Information Systems (L.O.I.S.) has agreed to put all back housing court decisions on CD ROM.

Casebase has agreed to take one volume of decisions to review but is not guaranteeing that it will incorporate them.

No response from LEXIS and WESTLAW.

2. Vic Feigenbaum reported that it is believed that the Hartford judge will be receiving a computer in the next few weeks.

3. Suzanne Colasanto reported 1) that there is a pilot program in Meriden and Rockville to put housing cases on the regular civil case computers and

2) there is a judicial department committee to delve into computerization of the housing courts. The Council decided that our computer subcommittee should monitor this.

b. Rent Bank (Nadine Baldetti, chair). Many attempts made and planned to show support for continuing the rent bank program. HANH executive director will pursue it. Glen Falk to contact Chris DePino. Voluminous letters sent from landlords. One response from governor's office. Breakfast held with New Haven area legislators. Eight letters sent on behalf of CACHM. Vic Feigenbaum suggested contacting legislators who have expressed an interest in housing legislation: Carl Schissel and Eric Coleman. The subcommittee will continue to act on behalf of CACHM. It is suggested that all council members write letters on behalf of the rent bank.

c. Magistrate evaluations (Joe Wincze). Some evaluations of magistrates to be done by judges but the subcommittee believes there should be some evaluation by litigants.

A letter will be sent to Judge Lubo with the evaluation form asking whether he would object to the questionnaire being included in the notice of judgment.

d. Eastern Connecticut Housing prosecutions (Morris Czaczkes, Chair). Eastern Connecticut housing prosecutor arrested for stalking and suspended. No one will be appointed in his place until the case is concluded. Susan Naide, Asst. State's Attorney is handling his cases in the interim. The only thing CACHM can do is to notify code agencies who they can contact.

e. Disposition of Funds held by Fairfield County Foundation. Motion made by Houston Lowry to table this issue indefinitely. Second by Morris Czaczkes.

Barbara Perry is pursuing an acknowledgment that the foundation is holding the funds.

f. Regional Committee Reports. (Passed).

### 3. Housing Court Operations Reports

a. Housing Clerks (Suzanne Colasanto). There is a hiring freeze at judicial which has left several offices short handed. All Temporary Assistant Clerks eliminated.

The Civil Docket "Blitz" in Norwalk should take care of backlog there.

b. Housing Specialists. Suzanne Colasanto reported in the absence of Cynthia Teixeira. The new New Haven housing specialist is working out well.

Ivan Hirsch reported an occasional shortage of housing specialists in Bridgeport. It was suggested he contact Cynthia Teixeira.

c. Housing Prosecutors. Raphie Podolsky was assured a housing prosecutor would be present for our meeting but none came. Discussion re: whether prosecution problems are systemic or personnel related.

Discussion re: lack of direction from above or lack of support from Housing Code inspectors is problem.

Houston Lowry believes a system change is required. He will draft a proposal re: his position, for comment and circulation to prosecutors and attorney general.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
R. J. [Signature]