



CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 1995

Present: Raphael Podolsky, Elaine DeNigris, Lorraine Martin, Robert Kor, Cynthia Teixeira, Suzanne Colasanto, Vic Feigenbaum, Houston Putnam Lowry, Robin Hammeal-Urban, Richard Tenenbaum, M. Rehm for Joe Zibbideo, Carolyn Comerford, Antonio C. Robaina, Murray Czaczkes, Linda François, Marie Langan, Herbiberto Villafane, Lois Stevenson.

1. Preliminary Matters. The agenda and the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 1995 were approved without correction.

2. Housing Court Operations Reports.

- a. **Housing Clerks.** S. Colasanto reported that vacancies in Norwalk and Bridgeport are expected to be filled. Discussion re: form revisions. On suggestion of R. Podolsky a committee of R. Hammeal-Urban, C. Comerford, Ch. Bob Kor, and R. Podolsky set up to review forms when judicial reviews them.
- b. **Housing Specialists.** Resignation at Bridgeport-Norwalk effective 10/1/95. Opening posted. R. Podolsky commented on hiring practices. Committee used to see all resumes -- now judicial personnel pre-screen. R. Podolsky wrote to judicial to stress wide interpretation of "housing related" experience requirement.
- c. **Housing Prosecutors.** No prosecutors present. S. Colasanto, V. Feigenbaum reported on successful Hartford housing law seminars. R. Podolsky commented on obvious lack of statewide units. E. Connecticut missing a prosecutor. M. Czaczkes reported on hiring freeze due to a grievance filed re: hiring practices. E. Connecticut subcommittee to meet with new prosecutor when appointed and emphasize need to spend majority of time on housing and do outreach.

3. Old Business

- a. No new appointments.
- b. Magistrate training. Magistrates like our new book, no other formal training is given.
- c. Magistrate Evaluation survey. Response rate higher than expected, but still need about one year to have statistically significant results.
- d. Sheriff for Bridgeport court -- discussion re: importance of sheriff in courtroom. R. Tenenbaum, M. Czaczkes and I. Hirsch to be on housing courtroom security committee to look into and implement ideas.
- e. Dear litigant letter + council had decided to adapt for all courts, this has been accomplished. Now available in all courts.
- f. Computed related issues. V. Feigenbaum reported Hartford should be on line in Spring. RFP going out a.s.a.p. No time frame for other courts. H. Lowry -- Lexus still dragging feet. Westlaw complained about some cases being illegible but all new cases going into system.

4. New Business.

- a. Subcommittee on Housing Quality -- report tabled for further review of committee.
- b. Housing Specialist conflict of interest: issue moot.

Next meeting will be March 20, 1996 at 2:00 p.m.