

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS

JUN 26 REC'D

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUNE 12, 1996

Present: Linda François, Houston Putnam Lowry, Vic Feigenbaum, Suzanne Colasanto, Cynthia D. Teixeira, Dominick J. Galluzzo, Timothy J. Sugrve, Elaine DeNigris, Lorraine Marten, Ivan Hirsch, Raphael Podolsky, Morris Czaczkes, Joe Wincze, Carolyn Comerford, M. Rehm for Joe Zibbideo, Richard Tenenbaum, Alice Bauer, Rachel Heerema, Chip Haslun, Bob Kor, David Pels, John McGrath, Peter Blasini, Francis X. Dineen.

1. Preliminary Matters. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. The agenda and minutes of March 20, 1996 were approved.

2. Housing Court Operations Reports.

- a. Housing Prosecutors. D. Galluzzo reported that financial considerations forced them down to two Housing Prosecutors in the state; however they are not trying to eliminate the positions of housing prosecutors. Discussion re: how the council can have input with housing prosecutors and their supervisors. R. Podolsky will write to chief state's attorneys and ask that a housing prosecutor be sent to each counsel meeting. Phone call follow ups will be made. Any problems with housing prosecutors are to be referred to D. Galluzzo. There are no current complaints about work of prosecutors.
- b. Housing Court Clerks and Housing Specialists. S. Colasanto reported on current staffing. There is discussion of transferring housing small claims to regular J.D. small claims because it is very labor intensive but requires little legal advice to Pro Se's from clerks. R. Podolsky reported that housing small claims are different because there is a lower default rate and a higher rate of Pro Se plaintiffs. A committee consisting of : H. Lowry, C. Haslun (Chair), D. Pels, and R. Podolsky was appointed to investigate the issue and advise on a council position. V. Feigenbaum reported that although understaffed, the clerk's offices are diligently keeping matters moving; however, they are overworked and cannot keep it up indefinitely.
- c. Housing Specialists. C. Texiera reported that Housing Specialists have been helping out voluntarily in clerk's offices even though it is not their job and they cannot be required to do so. The Dear Litigant letter is in the process of being rewritten to apply to Bridgeport.

3. Old Business

- a. No new appointments to council.
- b. New forms submitted to S. Colasanto by C. Comerford.
- c. New legislation reported on by R. Podolsky. Most important: 1) post judgment stay of execution now a uniform 5 days; 2) deliberate tenant damage is now a crime.
- d. Magistrate Evaluation Survey - returns need to be evaluated.
- e. Computer related issues. Hartford small claims program being grafted into G.A.s. Custom summary process software closer to completion.
- f. Subcommittee on Housing Quality will probably report at next meeting.

4. New Business : Biennial Report.

- a. R. Podolsky to create a draft with help of H. Lowry for council to review.

C. Haslun designated chair of Bridgeport-Norwalk Subcommittee. S. Hosen designated chair of New Haven subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned to regional subcommittee meetings at 4:00 to discuss recommendations for housing court judge appointments.

/s/ Linda Francois
Linda Francois, Secretary