



# CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



Reply to:

## Minutes of the meeting of September 17, 1997

**Present:** Linda François, Elaine DeNigris, Joe Wincze, David Pels, Richard Tenenbaum, Raphael Podolsky, Carolyn Comerford, Judith-Anne Scanlon, Joseph Zibbideo, Vic Feigenbaum, Suzanne Colasanto, Cynthia D. Teixeira, Ivan D. Hirsch, Robert J. Kor, Jeffrey Hammer, Jessie J. Bennett, Judy Rothschild-Rippe.

1. **Preliminary Matters.** The meeting was called to order at 2:12 p.m. The agenda and minutes approved.
2. **Judge Assignments:** No changes. All Housing Court judges are now in their second term.
3. **1997 edition of Housing Issues in Small Claims Division of the Superior Court.** The committee's draft was unanimously adopted without any changes.
4. **Magistrate evaluations.** Two years of data collected. A motion was passed that the counsel include in its biennial report a recommendation that housing court clerks be consulted on the appointment and reappointment of magistrates. Further action on the pilot project was tabled until the counsel receives information from the judicial department, previously requested, on the current evaluation process.
5. **Housing Court Operations Reports**
  - a. **Housing Prosecutors.**
    1. Housing code violations are still being sent to Housing Court, not community court.
    2. Criminal statutes re: housing matters are being reviewed by the Division of Criminal Justice; including whether to adopt a uniform state housing code. R. Podolsky reported that the issue is whether the code would be a minimum code or a uniform code. If it is a uniform code, municipalities would not be able to impose a more stringent standard.
    3. It was reported that housing prosecutors are meeting together regularly.
  - b. **Housing Court Clerks and Housing Specialists.** Housing Specialists are down one position and there is a pressing need for the position to be filled. A full time assistant clerk position in Hartford Housing Court was just vacated. This position is essential for the smooth functioning of the office. All clerk's offices except Hartford and all specialists are in need of computers. (Waterbury, Norwalk and New Britain clerk's offices need at least one each. New Haven and Bridgeport need one each additional to existing computers. One computer is needed for each specialist location). Motion made and carried that R. Podolsky write a letter urging that these positions be filled ASAP and that an adequate number of computers for the above Housing Session needs be acquired.
  - c. **Housing Clerks**
    1. Answering machines: S. Colasanto will review efforts to get these on line.
    2. Computerization (Vic Feigenbaum). The Hartford program is working very well but is quite expensive.
    3. Small claims. Judicial department committee is reviewing all small claims procedures to minimize clerical time. There will be regionalization.
6. **Nonfunctional Bridgeport Elevator.** I. Hirsch reported on successful repair.

Next meeting tentatively schedule for December 10, 1997

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda P. François, Secretary