



CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



Reply to:

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 1998

Present: Sheldon Hosen, Judy Rothschild, Daniel Branco, Jessie Bennett, Paul Rosow, Elaine DeNigris, Raphael Podolsky, Maureen Marquis Desjardin, Judy Hayes, Jeff Hammer, David Pels, Ivan Hirsch, Suzanne Colasanto, Heriberto Villafane, Edmond O'Garro, Lonnie Braxton, Sandra Desroiers

1. Preliminary Matters. The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. The minutes and agenda were approved.

2. Judicial Assignments. Judge Tanzer was appointed to Hartford and Judge Leavitt to New Haven. Judge Cocco reappointed to Bridgeport.

3. Housing Court Operations Reports.

a. Housing Prosecutors. Some activity in Hartford under the new nuisance abatement act. Focus on neighborhoods with a history of drugs or prostitution.

b. Housing Clerks.

i. SNET strike delaying completion of court relocations. Relocations now contemplated by late fall.

ii. Bridgeport Housing Court Security - Shooting outside courthouse, still no sheriff in housing courtroom. J.Hammer reported on need for sheriff. New High Sheriff may be more receptive. Currently dockets staggered to reduce lines. Defaults delayed. Judge sympathetic to Motions to Reopen on basis of delay in line.

iii. S. Colasanto reported that the Spanish translation of the Tenants' Rights and Responsibilities was never printed. Spanish Translation of Tenant's Guides also needs updating. English version of Rights and responsibilities being reformatted to be completed in 4-6 weeks. David Pels volunteered to have Spanish translation retyped after receipt from S. Colasanto.

c. Housing Specialists. No new matters.

4. 1999 Biennial Report. R. Podolsky to do initial revision to 1997 report. Any comments can be sent to him in advance or after draft mailed to members. Full council will review next meeting.

5. 1999 Legislation.

a. Landlord's group wants standardization of Sheriff fees. Move out fees unregulated to date. Sheriffs sharing maximum on regulated fees. Discussion re: New Execution procedures for commercial property.

b. State Housing Code to be proposed, J. Rothschild reported. Probably a uniform housing code with minimum standards. Issue remains to what extent it will be preemptive of local codes. Housing specialists would be certified in new code if passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Next meeting date: December 9, 1998

Respectfully submitted,


Linda P. François, secretary