



CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



Reply to:

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 1999

Present: Linda François, Cynthia Teixeira, Vic Feigenbaum, Suzanne Colasanto, Judith Rothschild, Don Muirhead, Sandra Desrosiers, Ivan Hirsch, Richard Tenebaum, Joe Wincze, Raphael Podolsky, Sheila Shanklin, David Pels, Richard DeParle, Jeff Hammer, Heriberto Villafone, Edmond O'Garro, Houston Putnam Lowry, Mike Flynn .

1. Preliminary Matters. The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. The minutes of September 22, 1999 were corrected to substitute "UCONN" for "Yale" in paragraph C.i. and were approved as corrected.

2. Housing Court Operations Reports.

a. Housing Prosecutor (J. Rothschild)

J. Rothschild reported that training for the new Eastern Connecticut Prosecutor should be set up as there are no regular meetings of housing prosecutors and little formal training. R. Podolsky will contact M. Czaczkes to follow up on this with Chris Morano.

J. Rothschild is responding to many requests for training by building, housing and health officials. There is increased criminal litigation including criminal mischief cases. Defendants are generally being directed to the public defender's office. Discussion re: landlords access to public defender's (PD). J. Hammer reported Bridgeport denying opportunity to submit an application. J. Rothschild reported New Haven improved but PD's may have conflicts or may not take case if no incarceration exposure.

Waterbury police not enforcing criminal lockout laws. S. Colasanto will have Dana Giuliano, Waterbury Clerk, keep a count of these cases for 3 months. J. Rothschild will report this to superiors in police department. Landlord/tenant law is not part of state police academy certification. Lack of training is the problem. Ad hoc committee on police training issues created: S. Desrosiers, R. DeParle and J. Rothschild. A representative of Chief Public Defender's Office will be invited to next CACHM meeting.

b. Housing Clerks (S. Colasanto)

i. and ii. Hartford telephone problems are being worked on. Website in Hartford will help decrease phone traffic. New computers from Y2K remediation program have helped efficiency. If no success with phone problem, council may have to get involved at next meeting.

iii. Pamphlets - Rights & Responsibilities has been translated and is being printed. Spanish version of Tenants Guide was translated but not yet distributed. Landlord pamphlet is available on web. J. Hammer will inquire if Tenant's Guide can be put on web.

iv. Bridgeport Relocation. R. DeParle reported that they are looking for a new location for Juvenile Court per Federal Court order; this may necessitate move of Housing Court.

v. Hartford trial scheduling reported by V. Feigenbaum to be back on schedule now that judge's summer vacation over. Current stats: return date to judgment averages 19 days.

C. Housing Specialists. (C. Teixeira)

- i. Housing Specialists still need computers. C. Teixeira will put it in her monthly report. H.P. Lowry will also contact Judicial Department.
- ii. C. Teixeira reported that Yale does not have the faculty to do a mediation clinic at this time.

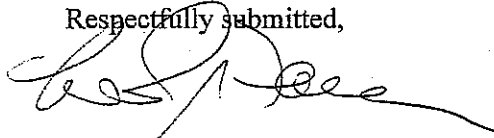
3. New Legislation

Discussion re: defects in commercial eviction legislation. H. Lowry reported several cases where secured creditors are suing, goods can't be moved and premises cannot be let. Hazmats a problem also. Consensus that it is inadvisable to extend the legislation to residential evictions and statute should be amended to give alternatives.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

→ Next meeting date: March 15, 2000, at 2:00. ←

Respectfully submitted,



Linda P. François, Secretary