



CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



Reply to:

Minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2002

Persons present: Joe Wincze, David Pels, J. André Fournier, Raphael Podolsky, Jennifer Hadlock, Sonya Ayala, Bobby Kostas

(1) Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm at the Connecticut Bar Association, 30 Bank St., New Britain.

(2) Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the meeting of September 18, 2002, were approved.

(3) Biennial report: The Council reviewed the draft of the biennial report which had been distributed prior to the meeting and made the following changes:

(a) Inside title page: J. André Fournier will be added to "Others actively involved in the Council."

(b) Summary of recommendations: The summary will be conformed to changes made in the body of the report.

(c) Part I(A) - Computerization of the housing courts: Small claims cases will be included in recommendation that non-summary process civil cases be available on the Judicial Branch web site.

(d) Part I(B) - Bilingual materials: This section will be revised to reflect the fact that Rights and Responsibilities is now available in Spanish. Council members also suggested (but did not include in the biennial report) that the Spanish versions of pamphlets be reviewed to be sure that they are written in the type of Spanish which is most easily understood by Spanish-speakers in Connecticut.

(e) Part I(D) - Telephone book listings: The recommendation was revised to suggest that the primary listing of housing session-related telephone information in the State of Connecticut section of the blue pages be under "Housing," not under "Judicial Branch." There should be a cross-reference to this section under both "Judicial Branch" and "Courts."

(f) Part II(A) - Staff vacancies: The section was revised to incorporate reference to housing specialist layoffs and permanent reduction of housing specialist staff. The new New Haven housing specialist, Sean Deffely, has received a layoff notice, effective January 16. The report will call for maintenance of full staffing.

(g) Part III(E) - Staff vacancies: A new subsection will be added to object to the layoff of the eastern Connecticut prosecutor.

(h) Part III -- Freedom of Information: Based on the representation that the problem has been solved, the report will not contain a recommendation concerning the availability to the public of housing code inspection reports from the local code enforcement agency during the pendency of a criminal prosecution. David Pels had previously raised the issue that the Town of Manchester had refused to give him a copy of an inspection report because the case had been referred to the housing prosecutor.

(i) Part VI(K) -- Standards for the hiring of housing prosecutors: Standard #3 will be revised to read: "...(3) a commitment to active community outreach, particularly to local code officials, police departments, and neighborhood groups..."

(j) Appendix A -- Housing Court Districts: The map will be revised to eliminate the numbers of the Congressional Districts, which are no longer current.

(k) Appendix C -- Housing Caseloads: The percentage change in Hartford-New Britain evictions since 1999-2000 will be corrected to read "-9.5%" instead of "+9.5%."

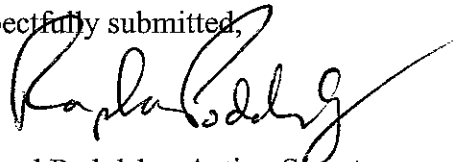
(l) Appendix E(D)(C) -- Bilingual materials: The right-hand column will be changed to "Implemented."

As modified by these changes, the report was unanimously approved.

(4) 2003 meeting schedule: The Council adopted as its meeting schedule for 2003 the third Wednesday of March, June, September, and December. The dates of these meetings in 2003 will be March 19, June 18, September 17, and December 17.

(5) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Raphael Podolsky, Acting Secretary