



CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



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CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

PRESENT: Rafie Podolsky, Sandra Desrosiers, Richard Tenenbaum, Jeff Hammer, Jennifer Barry, Peter Blasini,, Richard DeParle, Sonia Devitt, Frank Dineen, Richard Tenenbaum, Joseph Wincze, Roberta Palmer, David Pels, George Papallo

- (1) *Preliminary matters Meeting called to order at 2:10 p.m.*
 - a. Approval of agenda
 - b. Approval of minutes of June 15, 2005

- (2) *Housing court operations reports*
 - a. Housing prosecutors (Judy Dicine not present)
 - i. Housing prosecutor's model ordinance under P.A. 05-223 (identification of Landlord)
Model ordinance was distributed to Council members

 - ii. Housing Prosecution Manual – final version? Tabled

 - iii. Police Training Manual Tabled

 - iv. Prosecution delays in Bridgeport (Dick Tenenbaum) Tabled

 - v. Prosecutor staffing – (a) clerical person for Bridgeport/Norwalk, (b) statewide investigator, and (c) eastern Connecticut Prosecutor as full-time Tabled

 - vi. Other prosecution issues
 - b. Housing clerks
 - i. Possible reduction of Norwalk to one day per week
It appears that Judge Pinkus is sitting only one day a week in Norwalk (cases were formerly heard two days per week). There are also rumors that he will be hearing cases only one day a week in Bridgeport (Judge Cocco would be hearing Bridgeport cases on the two other Bridgeport days). There was some concern expressed about both of these changes, but no action was taken.

 - ii. Small claims reorganization
A letter from Nancy Kierstead, Director of Court Operations, was distributed acknowledging the Advisory Council's August letter and indicating that it is anticipated that, in any reorganization of small claims, housing small claims will cases will continue to be filed and tried in the housing courts and the housing courts will continue to provide

small claims services at the counter and by telephone. What is likely to change is that data entry, scheduling, docket preparation, and issuance of notices will take place elsewhere. This is consistent with the Advisory Council's recommendations.

- iii. Blue pages telephone listing Tabled
- iv. WestLaw exclusion of some housing court cases Tabled
- v. Spanish language booklets for landlords Tabled
- vi. Clerk's office staffing

Hartford is using two temps from a temporary agency but has been promised priority when Judicial authorizes permanent hires.

- vii. Other clerk's office issues None

c. Housing Specialists

i. Printers

No progress made on additional printers. The top priority locations for additional printers are Hartford, New Haven, Rockville and New London. The chairperson was directed to write the Judicial Branch on behalf of the Advisory Council.

ii. Current staffing (including volunteers)

Rockville housing specialist is back from maternity leave part-time. Hartford is short one full time Housing Specialist position .

iii. Other Housing Specialist Issues

Potential partnerships with Department of Rehab Services and Housing Specialists regarding internships.

(3) *Judicial Assignments* - Judge Bentivegna (Hartford-New Britain), Judge Doherty (New Haven – Waterbury) and Judge Pinkus (Bridgeport-Norwalk)

No expressed concerns except in regard to 2(b)(i) above.

(4) *Future meeting locations* (Sharon Levy)

The committee was asked to scout suitable meeting locations in the Bridgeport/New Haven area and respond to Rafie by Monday. December meeting is set for 12/21/05 [subsequently changed to 12.14/05]. Meetings for 2006 will be conducted the third Wednesday of each third month (March, June, September, and December).

(5) *Other Business* – None.

Adjournment 3:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted By:
Sandra Desrosiers