



CITIZENS ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR HOUSING MATTERS



Reply to: 44 Capitol Ave., Suite 301
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Next meeting

1:30 pm

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Connecticut Bar Association
30 Bank St., New Britain
(860-223-4400 for directions)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 8, 2011

Burroughs Community Center, 2470 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport

Present were: Richard Tenenbaum; Friedrich Helisch; David Desjardins; Rafie Podolsky; David Pels; Carl Lupinacci; Sharon Levy; Nilda Cabello; and Genis TaVares.

Chairperson Raphael Podolsky called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

1a. The agenda was approved.

1b. Motion to approve the minutes of the March, 9, 2011 meeting was made by Richard Tenenbaum and seconded by David Pels. The minutes were approved.

2. The chairperson reported the September, 2011 judicial assignments: Vernon Oliver for Hartford/New Britain; Terence Zemetis for New Haven/Waterbury; and Michael Maronich for Bridgeport/Norwalk. He also reported that Judge Maronich is apparently going to cover both the Norwalk and Bridgeport locations and that he is interested in reviewing the courtroom location and scheduling issues in Bridgeport. Sharon Levy on behalf of the Bridgeport subcommittee will schedule a meeting with Judge Maronich prior to September to discuss the Council's concerns regarding the Bridgeport issues.

3. Rocco Guarnieri's suggestion at the March meeting to have speakers at the Council's meetings was discussed. The chairperson will solicit topic suggestions from the Council.

4. Legislative report: HB 5437 will eliminate the minimum interest rate of 1.5% for security deposits as of January 1, 2012. The rate may now go below 1.5%, depending on the Federal Reserve index used by the Banking Commissioner. Likely to pass is an extension of the foreclosure mediation program and state codification of the federal Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act through 2017. No changes are likely in the statute regarding the disposition of tenant property after eviction.

5. The Council is concerned that no Housing Session personnel were present at the meeting and that there could be no discussion of issues regarding clerks, mediators and prosecutors. The chairperson will bring the matter to the attention of Housing Session personnel.

6a. The chairperson distributed a letter from Justice Palmer (in his capacity as Chair of the Criminal Justice Commission) expressing general agreement with the Council's standards for the selection of housing prosecutors. Justice Palmer indicated that he would present the standards to the full Criminal Justice Commission.

6b. The chairperson has been unable to get clarification from the marshals regarding the confiscation of cell phones in Bridgeport. Sharon Levy said that it is the policy of the current Judge (Moore) to confiscate phones that go off in the courtroom and to make the offenders pay a charitable contribution to get the phones back.

The chairperson will follow up with Judge Quinn and Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane regarding the Council recommendations (from the 2011 Report) that they had agreed to implement or consider.

7. The chairperson reported that Governor Malloy is likely to make appointments to the Council by the end of this year. The chairperson will solicit names of persons willing to be appointed and forward them to the Governor's office.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Submitted by David Pels, Acting Secretary