



ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE SUPERIOR COURT HOUSING SESSION

NEXT MEETING:

1:30 pm

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Burroughs Community Center

2074 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport

Reply to: 363 Main St., Suite 301

Hartford, CT. 06106

(860) 616-4472

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

Persons present: Raphael Podolsky, Judith Dicine, Leonard S. Campbell, Mary W. Campbell, Rocco Guarnieri, Carl Lupinacci, Kathy Flaherty

The meeting was called to order by the chairperson, Raphael Podolsky, at 1:53 pm at the Connecticut Bar Association, 30 Bank Street, New Britain, CT.

1) PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Approval of agenda: The agenda was approved (with a modification as to order to accommodate the schedule of the attendees).
 - b. Approval of minutes of June 12, 2013 meeting: The minutes were approved on a motion made by Rocco Guarnieri and seconded by Carl Lupinacci.
- 2) (item 3 on agenda) REPORT ON E-FILING: Tabled until next meeting.
- 3) (item 4 on agenda) PROSECUTION AND CODE-RELATED MATTERS TABLED FROM 6/12/13 MEETING
- a. Hiring of Hartford prosecutor. The process was discussed. The names of five candidates have been forwarded to the Criminal Justice Commission and interviews will be held on October 9.
 - b. Anti-Blight Enforcement and Anti-Blight Task Force – There was discussion about the issues regarding blight enforcement and existing definition of blight. Matters raised and discussed included the \$250 fine, consideration for property owners unable to afford to make repairs, whether vacant buildings are necessarily blighted, and the relationship between civil and criminal blight enforcement. Judith Dicine has been appointed to the task force. It has not met yet. It is not yet known if the task force will hold a public hearing. People with concerns about blight ordinances should contact members of the task force. The chairperson will distribute the new statute (P.A. 13-132) and a list of the members of the task force when such a list is available.

- c. Administrative search warrants – There was a discussion of the authority of code officials to search premises (including common areas) with and without the consent of tenants or owners. In Connecticut, there is no statute authorizing administrative search warrants but their legitimacy has been confirmed by caselaw. It is unknown whether legislation to create explicit statutory authority will be proposed next year.
 - d. Bedbugs – There will be a bedbug forum in Bridgeport on February 26, 2014 at Southwest Community Mental Health from 8:30-3:00. There will be a Hoarding Symposium at Fairfield University on November 19, 2013 from 8:00-1:00, featuring Dr. Tolin from the Institute of Living, cosponsored by several city Health Departments.
 - e. 911 calls – A bill (H.B. 6015) proposed to prohibit towns from charging property owners based on the number of 911 calls about their buildings did not pass.
 - f. Other prosecution related matters – Atty. Dicine will conduct a training session for fire marshals and building officials at CCSU. Those presentations will be in December and January. She notes that Connecticut is at the forefront nationally of building code enforcement.
- 4) (2 on the agenda) ADVISORY COUNCIL STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP
- a. Unexpected statutory changes – name and size. We are no longer CACHM. We are now ACSCHS – The Advisory Council to the Superior Court Housing Session. It was included as Section 35 of P.A. 13-299, a bill to streamline government. The statute reduces the size of the Advisory Council from 36 to 12 members. Discussion on whether the Advisory Council should suggest any amendment to the statute was tabled to the December meeting.
 - b. Appointment status – No new appointments to the Advisory Council have yet been made.

5) **OPERATIONAL REPORTS - tabled**

6) **OTHER BUSINESS - none**

7) **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm (motion made by Rocco Guarnieri, seconded by Kathy Flaherty).

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Flaherty, temporary secretary