



# CONNECTICUT ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOUSING MATTERS



Reply to: 363 Main St., Suite 301  
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## Notice of next Advisory Council meeting

1:30 pm

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Burroughs Community Center

2470 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, CT

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

**Persons present:** Kathy Flaherty, Steve Lesko, Raphael Podolsky, Lisa Backus (New Britain Herald), Houston Putnam Lowry, David Pels, Murray Czaczkes, Venoal Fountain, Jr., Friedrich Helisch, Carl Lupinacci, Judith Dicine

The meeting was called to order by the chairperson, Raphael Podolsky; at 1:46 pm at the Connecticut Bar Association, 30 Bank Street, New Britain, CT

1. Preliminary Matters:
  - a. Approval of agenda: The agenda was approved.
  - b. Approval of minutes of June 11, 2014 meeting: The minutes were approved on a motion made by Houston Putnam Lowry and seconded by Kathy Flaherty.
2. September 1, 2014 Judicial Assignments:

Judge Rodriguez (Bridgeport/Norwalk) and Judge Woods (Hartford/New Britain) will continue in their assignments for another year. Judge Maronich (New Haven/Waterbury) has been replaced by Judge Ecker.
3. Status of Advisory Council appointments: The chairperson believes that the Governor is close to making appointments.
4. (5 on agenda) Other business: Steve Lesko is the Hartford/Middlesex/NB housing prosecutor. In New London, the GA 10 prosecutor is handling housing cases as they come up; there is still no full-time eastern CT housing prosecutor assigned to handle just housing cases. Bloomfield is following the new anti-bligh statute and has referred 3 properties to him. There is more recognition of hoarding as a mental health issue and looking at a more holistic approach. No one else in Hartford/New Britain seems to be using the criminal anti-bligh statute; other towns are relying on local housing code ordinances.
5. (4 on agenda) Review of draft Advisory Council biennial report for 2015: The draft report was reviewed. The chairperson is waiting for more feedback from the Judicial Branch. Houston Putnam Lowry will speak with the Hartford clerk about the pacing of summary process cases

there. Judy Dicine will obtain a count of criminal housing cases if the data is not available through the Judicial Branch. Anyone with additional comments on the draft of the report should get them to the chairperson. He will incorporate comments and follow-up from today's meeting, other comments, and additional data from Judicial into a revised draft, which will be circulated before the Advisory Council's December 10 meeting, at which the Council will vote on the final report.

6. (5 on the agenda) Other business, continued:
  - a. Carl Lupinacci reported that members of the Bridgeport Property Owners Association are concerned about what they believe to be excessive blight lien fines. He may circulate proposed legislative changes prior to the next Advisory Council meeting.
  - b. The secretary will scan and email the attendance list to the chairperson after each meeting so that it can be retained for reference. For accuracy, attendees at future meeting should be sure that they sign the attendance list at each meeting they attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 pm (motion made Kathy Flaherty, second by Venoal Fountain, Jr.)

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Flaherty, Secretary