

Housing Discrimination Subcommittee Meeting (Virtual)

Meeting Notes 02.15.2022

Virtual meeting held through electronic communication. A recording of the meeting is available on the County's webpage.

Commissioners present: Emily Camardo (Chair), Christopher Wimbush, Kristen Clegg

Commissioner (excused absent): David Timm

Staff: Reginette Ogsby, Rolda Nedd, Vanessa Street.

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

Continued discussion on SOI and implementation in Arlington.

Vanessa Street, Executive Director Housing Choice Voucher Program (HVC), DHS provided a presentation on the Housing Choice Voucher Program and intake processes. Highlighted program benefits to renters and owners/property managers and described the process. Arlington's wait list closed since 2012, reopening of the wait list is anticipated this year. 300 families currently on the wait list.

Program features – rent payment is guaranteed to landlord; owner has role in screening/selecting tenant; rent is directly deposited one week before month begins.

Program constraints – low vacancy rate in Arlington; low inventory of private properties and small landlords need encouragement to participate in the program.

Program improvements- clustered inspections at time of recertifications to increase efficiency.

Racial equity lens being applied to the program looking at barriers through a working group. Review of tenants rights and responsibilities. Survey of program participants being developed, would invite comment/review from the Tenant Landlord Commission, sharing with Fair Housing Office and Arlington's Human Rights Office. Suggested areas to look at:

1. Communicate and Educate landlords on SOI
2. Look at marketing and education of HCV
3. Racial Equity awareness

Next steps: Commissioners to consider information from staff presentation, renter, and landlord viewpoints to determine the subcommittee's position.