

Arlington Tenant Landlord Housing Discrimination Subcommittee

Virtual Meeting

Meeting notes March 15, 2022, 7- 8 p.m.

Members present: Emily Camardo, Chris Wimbush

Absent: David Timm

Staff present: Vanessa Street, Director Housing Choice Voucher Program, Russell Young, Housing Inspector, Reginette Osby, Housing Locator, Rolda Nedd, Community Development Planner, CPHD

The meeting began at 7:03 p.m. Russell Young, Housing Choice Voucher Inspector gave a presentation that provided detailed steps involved in conducting Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspections on units identified for occupancy by Housing Choice Voucher Program holders. The inspections are thorough and focus on health, safety, and decent housing for clients. It was pointed out that these are minimum standards and generally are not onerous on the owner. The question of whether there is more of an obligation rather than burden on landlords using HCV compared to commercial rental properties was discussed. In general, it was determined that inspections and the entire process was generally completed within 15 days and that landlords are generally cooperative in making repairs when needed, especially during time of tenancy.

Conclusion – It was decided that having heard this presentation on inspections and the timeline it was best to hear directly from landlords their experience with the program, in order to determine whether there are any areas in the process that leads to delay or hardship for both renter and landlord.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.