

Arlington County Tenant-Landlord Commission Meeting (Virtual)

Meeting Notes 1.12.2022

Virtual Meeting held through electronic communication. A recording is available on the Commission's webpage.

Commissioners present: David Timm (Chair), Kirit Mookerjee, Nicole Merlene, Emily Camardo, Matthew Whitfiels, Christopher Wimbush, Bismah Ahmed, Kristen Clegg.

Approval of meeting notes – November 10, meeting notes were approved unanimously.

Public comment- no public comment.

Chair's remarks: David Timm welcomed all to the meeting and expressed appreciation for the work of the Commission in 2021 and looks forward to 2022.

**Item #1 - Arna Valley Relocation Plan-** Kim Painter, Jodi Fabien of APAH and Jarey Wilson of Housing Opportunities Ltd presented various sections of the Relocation Plan. They highlighted the resident profile and explained the renovation timeline as well as extent of the proposed rehabilitation. The project is an in-place relocation where residents would be relocated on-site and/or to market-rate nearby properties. Commissioners posed questions about language communication for residents who speak other languages, and alternatives to relocation and payments. A representative from Arlington Public School (APS) pointed out that APS is aware of the relocation and reminded that relocation of families to other apartments should consider whether school bus transportation would be available for families that depend on this. Other concerns were for disabled residents and what accommodations would be available. All questions were addressed by APAH and HOU representatives. In conclusion, staff (Hector) requested that all questions be sent to him by January 21 for transmission to APAH and HOU for updates to the Plan. Many tenants were in attendance, however, there were no comments.

**Item #2 - Park Shirlington Eviction update-** Court filings of eviction notices at Park Shirlington became noticeable in weekly eviction reports. Melissa Denowski (Housing staff), Heather Venner DHS, staff and Steve Khan (property owner) spoke about their specific roles in addressing residents at risk of eviction at Park Shirlington. DHS staff described the interventions undertaken and the services including outreach to the landlord and personal assistance to tenants to enable them to access rent relief funding to prevent eviction. Mr. Khan described several situations of unresponsiveness and non-cooperation from residents and loss of revenue as well as attempts to place tenants in rent relief programs and develop payment plans to prevent evictions.

**Item #3 – Joint TLC-HC subcommittee update –** Commissioner Merlene provided a summary of the subcommittee's three meetings to date. One each for Residents, County Staff and AHC . This provided a detailed view of the issues and actions of each stakeholder. Next steps of the subcommittee members include- development of a memo to summarize findings; it will contain lessons learned, feedback from individuals and recommendations including any best practices and broad recommendations to including possible amendments to State law, to present to the Board. There was a request to Commissioners to provide suggestions and feedback for consideration. A vote will be taken on the report at the TLC February meeting.

**Item #4 – 2021 Annual Commission Report-** A report was developed by staff that summarized the presentations and actions of the Commission for the past year 2021. Chair Timm asked for comments and overall review of the report from Commissioners. There were no immediate comments from Commissioners. A motion was taken to authorize Chair Timm to make edits, add comments received from Commissioners and finalize report for transmission to the County Board by January 31. A motion was moved and seconded by Commissioners Wimbush and Camardo, respectively. All voted in favor.

Chair Timm advised that in preparation for February's meeting he will have on-on-one calls with each Commissioner to discuss work plan items for the coming year and reflect on past year. Commissioner Merlene advised the meeting of action by the Virginia Attorney General Office to investigate AHC and the Serrano. A resident from Arna Valley asked to verify the number of weeks residents should expect to be displaced by the Arna Valley relocation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.