

Tenant Landlord Commission

October 12th Meeting Notes

Meeting began at 7:02

Commissioners Present: Ryan Whitaker, Chris Wimbush, Kirit Mookerjee, Kristin Clegg, Matt Toyer,

Commissioners Absent: Bismah Ahmed, Aaron Almanza, David Timm

Remote attendance: Emily Camardo, Elder Julio Basurto

Public Comment

Dr. Eric Dyne, resident of Estrada Property in Pentagon City provided information on his complaints to management about, the effect of neighbor's smoking on his health, poor living conditions because of flooding which affected the carpet, poor repairs to air vents and unacceptable customer service from property manager. He was advised by Commissioners Clegg and Whitaker, and Mookerjee of his rights as a tenant. He was referred to the 2021 amendment to VRLTA which includes a Tenants Rights Document which is required to be attached to the lease. This would be his reference to request or undertake repairs and if he had to seek legal assistance. Also advised to complain to higher management level in Buzzoto.

Meeting notes approval: Commissioner Whitaker requested that minutes include the names of Commissioners in the actions voted upon. Motion to accept the minutes with necessary corrections was moved by Commissioner Whitaker and seconded by Commissioner Royer. Six, members voted to approve the minutes, Commissioners Klegg and Basurto abstained.

Item #1 Eviction Prevention (presentation available online) – Brooke Harmon Perez, Department of Human Services

Ms Harmon Perez provided a presentation which highlighted the number of persons receiving Rent Relief, the amount of funds expended to date and future actions. There were follow up questions and comments from Commissioners.

- County to ensure that funds are being used for those renters in greatest need; better program oversight
- Need to ensure that landlords receiving funds are providing safe, and habitable housing
- Renters should be reminded of the change in policy regarding rent relief aware.

Program next steps include:

- Conduct follow up by staff to determine case management needs
- Recruit 3 additional FTEs to enhance case management and housing locator- (term limited FTEs)

Commissioner Basurto inquired whether DHS could organize information tables to bring information on eviction prevention to the community, he offered to distribute flyers to spread the word. DHS will follow up.

Item #2 Barcroft Follow Up- Mark Hannan, Jair Lynch Development Company (presentation available)

Mark Hannan provided follow up information related to tenant Commission and tenant concerns from the September TLC meeting:

-Process for lease renewal – Individual negotiations, phased process

-Property maintenance – details of early actions taken and regularly scheduled and daily maintenance to address, pests, trash and upgrades to common areas such as laundry rooms, courtyards, and landscaping.

Resident Services – several activities, programs, services made available.

Questions from Commissioners focused on property maintenance conditions in individual units and the ongoing plan to maintain safe, clean housing and affordability for residents. Commissioners were satisfied with the responses provided.

Item# 3 Bu-gata Annual Report – Saul Reyes, Executive Director

Saul's presentation highlighted Bugata's activities, that focused on Outreach and Education, Relocation and Rental Assurances services. Bugata's Staff handle queries and manage cases that encompass 11 areas of service. Housing related complaints and maintenance issues comprise 22% of cases; rental assistance 14% and relocation assistance comprised 23% - a large percentage on account of Columbia Gardens. Questions regarding how "at risk" properties are defined, and how utility billing is being done were explained.

Item#4 Commission Member Engagement, Commissioner Wimbush –

Requested that commissioners volunteer to serve on subcommittees or attend other Commission meetings such as Housing Commission, Planning Commission and Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee (CDCAC) meetings to report back to the larger Tenant Landlord Commission. Request that commissioners identify which committees they wish to serve on.

Member and Staff reports: No member reports; staff announced events for Affordable Housing Month.

Meeting adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Whitaker; seconded by Commissioner Klegg. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.