



## FAIR HOUSING OFFICE

### REGULAR MEETING – FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION

#### AGENDA

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 3:00 PM

HYBRID BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING & NORWALK FAIR HOUSING OFFICE 137 EAST AVENUE 2<sup>ND</sup>  
FLOOR NORWALK CT 06851-5702

**Attendance:** Rev. Richard Clarke, Joseph Mann, Alexandra Sollazzo, LMSW, Brenda Penn-Williams, Jalin T. Sead (Chair)

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Fair Housing Advisory Commission was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Jalin T. Sead.

#### II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sead called the roll and announced there was a quorum present. Commissioners present were Rev. Richard Clarke, Alexandra Sollazzo, LMSW, Joseph Mann, and Brenda Penn-Williams.

#### III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

##### **A. Regular Meeting – January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

The minutes of the January 12, 2026, meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Joseph Mann and seconded by Alexandra Sollazzo. With no corrections or discussion, the minutes were approved.

#### IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public requested time, and no written comments had been submitted in advance.

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

##### **A. Fair Housing Officer Report**

Ms. Román, provided an update on recent activities and initiatives of the Fair Housing Office:

- **BET Meeting Update:**

The Fair Housing Office budget was presented, reflecting a 14% decrease. The proposal was generally well received, with no substantive questions regarding the budget. One member raised concerns comparing the Fair Housing Office to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO). Clarification was provided regarding the distinct roles and legal requirements of the Fair Housing Office. Additional documentation, including the ordinance and office overview, was submitted. A decision from BET is expected at their next meeting.

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## FAIR HOUSING OFFICE

- **Fair Housing Month – April 2026:**

The Commission was informed of a Fair Housing Resource Fair scheduled for April 16, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall. The event will be free and open to the public. A mayoral proclamation and Fair Housing Month banner will be displayed beginning April 1. Several community partners have confirmed participation, including the Norwalk Housing Authority, Connecticut Legal Services, Open Doors, and the Fair Rent Commission. Outreach materials will be translated into multiple languages. Additional discussion included children’s activities and volunteer support for the event.

- **Community Outreach and Training:**

Ms. Román will be presenting at an upcoming Norwalk Health Department staff training on the connection between fair housing and public health, including topics such as lead exposure, mold, and accessibility.

- **Regional Collaboration:**

The City of Ansonia has recently reinstated its Fair Housing Officer role and reached out to Norwalk for guidance. Initial conversations have begun to support their efforts and explore the development of a broader network of Fair Housing Officers.

- **Casework Update:**

Since December, the office has managed numerous fair housing cases, some related to the Halstead building displacement situation. The office collaborated with multiple city departments and community partners to support impacted residents, including providing guidance on reasonable accommodations and connecting residents to appropriate resources. Tenant organizing efforts remain ongoing.

Commission members expressed appreciation for the continued work of the Fair Housing Office and acknowledged the positive feedback received from the community.

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, a motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Mann and seconded by Brenda Penn-Williams. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Zabrina Román  
Fair Housing Officer, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency

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