



FAIR HOUSING OFFICE

REGULAR MEETING – FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA

August 18th, 2025, 3:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sead called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

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, Brenda Penn Williams, and Daisy Franklin.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – June 16, 2025

The minutes of the regular meeting held on June 16, 2025, were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously carried.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

V. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Daisy Franklin inquired about the previously planned “Survival of a Small City” event. Fair Housing Officer Zabrina Román explained that the event was postponed due to low RSVP responses, which did not warrant the resources required. She is awaiting confirmation of room availability to reschedule the program, with September being considered as a possible timeframe. Zabrina noted that her workload managing case investigations takes priority, but she intends to move the event forward once scheduling is finalized. Commissioners acknowledged the challenge of balancing casework and event planning.

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VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fair Housing Officer's Report

Fair Housing Officer Zabrina Román reported that the office has remained active since the June meeting, handling new fair housing complaints, assisting tenants with reasonable accommodation requests, and continuing landlord education. She noted that disability discrimination and voucher refusal remain frequent issues.

Zabrina provided updates on new housing developments, including the Meadows Gardens redevelopment and a planned senior housing project, both of which she said reflect important fair housing principles. Commissioners discussed the significance of these projects in expanding affordable and accessible housing options in Norwalk.

A substantial part of the discussion focused on immigration and housing. Zabrina shared concerns about the chilling effect of recent ICE activity in Norwalk and emphasized that her office does not track immigration status. Alexandra Sollazzo introduced a Latino Outreach program through Family & Children's Agency, which prompted debate among commissioners. While some viewed the program as a valuable resource, others expressed concern about its exclusivity. Commissioners agreed on the importance of equitable support for all communities.

Zabrina also addressed policy developments, including the Governor's veto of HB 5002, a housing bill that would have spread affordable housing responsibility more evenly across towns. Commissioners voiced interest in supporting future advocacy efforts when the bill is revisited.

Finally, Zabrina highlighted the impact of social media outreach. Instagram and LinkedIn activity has led directly to new case referrals, with multilingual posts helping to reach a wider audience. Commissioners praised her efforts, and there was additional discussion about the heavy workload of the office and the possibility of pursuing an intern in the future.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jalin Sead commended the commissioners for their commitment to fairness and equity and encouraged them to remain active in the community. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Zabrina Román
Fair Housing Officer, City of Norwalk

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