



FAIR HOUSING OFFICE

REGULAR MEETING – FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA

October 20th, 2025, 3:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sead called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting – September 15th, 2025

The minutes of the September 15, 2025, meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve was made and seconded. 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. 6 Month Fair Housing Officer Report

Fair Housing Officer Zabrina Román presented a comprehensive six-month progress report, outlining how the office has evolved since her appointment on April 7, 2025.

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Ms. Román emphasized that her goal has been to rebuild the Fair Housing Office into a proactive, data-driven, and community-centered resource for Norwalk residents. Most complaints were tenant-led and related to rental housing, reflecting the broader state trend. Common issues included source-of-income discrimination (such as Section 8 voucher denials), disability accommodation requests, retaliation following complaints, lease or billing disputes, and succession rights in public housing.

Ms. Román also reported conducting Fair Housing trainings for both the Norwalk Housing Authority and King's Daughters and Sons Housing, with additional sessions planned. She emphasized that education remains a cornerstone of the office's mission, noting that "the strongest Fair Housing Office is one that informs before it enforces."

Looking ahead, she discussed budget planning for FY26, including a proposed modest increase in the events line item to support three formal Fair Housing events annually. Collaboration with the Redevelopment Agency and Finance Department will continue to finalize projections, though overall expenses are expected to remain below last year's budget.

During discussion, Commissioners praised Ms. Román's work and expressed appreciation for her leadership and outreach efforts. Chair Sead noted that community awareness of Fair Housing rights has visibly improved and commended Ms. Román for restoring visibility to the office. Commissioners Mann, Clarke, Sollazzo, and Penn-Williams echoed their support, describing her performance as outstanding and the office's progress as transformative.

Commissioner Penn-Williams announced that the NAACP and IMF would be co-hosting a mayoral debate at the SoNo Elementary School on the evening of October 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM, and invited members and attendees to participate.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Mann and second by Alexandra Sollazzo. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:39 PM.

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

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