

**CITY OF NORWALK
FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Rev. Richard Clarke, Joe Mann, Alexandra Sollazzo

Via Phone: Sheri McCready-Pritchett

OTHERS: Atty. Margaret Suib, Fair Housing Officer

CALL TO ORDER.

Rev. Clarke agreed to assume the role of Acting Chair. This was agreeable to all.
Rev. Clarke called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present from the public to comment at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• July 17, 2023

**** MR. MANN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2023 MEETING.**

**** MS. SOLLAZZO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR (CLARKE, MANN AND SOLLAZZO) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MCCREADY-PRITCHETT).**

OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/Discussion re FY 2022-23 Fair housing Data

Atty. Suib distributed copies of a spreadsheet that presented a summary of the phone calls and contacts that she had during the time period. She reviewed the information with the Commissioners. The only cases that are opened are ones that Atty. Suib could not resolved and needed to be referred to other venues. Atty. Suib explained to everyone that number of reported cases just reflects the number of people who call, not the actual number of people who are being discriminated against. Most discrimination cases go unreported.

The discussion moved to a variety of issues such as the difference between race and color, family status, the Mrs. Murphy exception and families with young children. Mr. Mann said that some of this information could be posted on the NAACP website.

The Commissioners agreed that the format was clear and understandable.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to consider at this time.

Ms. McCready-Pritchett said that there was a start-up housing company, Matrix Rental Solutions, in Stamford that uses AI to screen rental applications. The goal of the company is to offer access to fair and affordable housing. Atty. Suib said that it was on the radar for rental groups. There are concerns about the fact that AI has been shown to have underlying discrimination. The founder and CEO of the group is Sipho Simela, who created the company in 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. MANN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. SOLLAZZO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services.