

**CITY OF NORWALK
FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 29, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Rev. Jeffrey Ingraham, Chair; Deidra Davis, Nancy Burke, Daisy Franklin

STAFF: Margaret Suib, Fair Housing Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Ingraham called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 23, 2015

**** COMMISSIONER BURKE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 23, 2015 MEETING.**

**** COMMISSIONER FRANKLIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one wished to address the Commission at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Regarding FY 2016/17 Budget Meetings

Atty. Suib said that she had met with Mr. Barron, the City Finance Director, along with Rev. Ingraham and Commissioner Burke. She said that Mr. Barron stated he was not ready to respond to the request for testing funding. The overall budget had a slight increase. Atty. Suib said that Mr. Barron had told the Committee that he would not recommend the salary that the Commissioner had approved. He also admitted that he does not make recommendation about any other employees' salaries.

Atty. Suib said that the Meeting with the BET will be on March 14th at 7 p.m.

Atty. Suib said that she had included the support staff positions had been part of the testing position. Commissioner Burke said that it would be important to remember that the City had already informed HUD that they would run the testing program. She said that the testing budget requested last year had been denied and the Commission did not drop the ball on this project. Atty. Suib said that Commission would be more than happy to conduct the program.

Commissioner Davis asked where the statement about the testing program originated. Atty. Suib said that the Redevelopment Agency had included the commitment to conduct the testing, but that the City has not provided the funding. She went on to talk about the outside funding opportunities. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion And Acceptance of FHO Annual Report For FY 2014-15

Atty. Suib said that Rev. Ingraham had sent some comments, which she incorporated into the report.

The discussion moved to a recent letter from the ACLU regarding mandatory drug testing for all applicants. Commissioner Davis said that she had expressed her opposition to this issue when she was first on the Housing Authority. It is not legal. Commissioner Davis said that companies can require all employees to have a drug test, but pointed out that the Housing Authority is not an employer. The Commissioners then reviewed the report.

**** COMMISSIONER FRANKLIN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FAIR HOUSING OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 2014-15**

**** COMMISSIONER BURKE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Fair Housing Month Events Discussion and Update

Atty. Suib gave a quick update on the Fair Housing Association upcoming activities and said that she had been able to get four copies a recently published book “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City”, by Matthew Desmond for the Commissioners to borrow and read.

Atty. Suib said that this year, there would be a joint Fair Housing Commission and the Norwalk Library event on April 11th in the City Hall Community Room. April 11th is the anniversary of the Fair Housing Act being signed into law by President Johnson. This is also the 30th anniversary of the Fair Housing Consent Decree. Atty. Suib gave a brief overview of the various poets and musicians that will be participation. The Library will be taking care of all the promotion and flyers. A discussion about the details followed.

Atty. Suib gave a brief overview of the current cases that she is working on to the Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER FRANKLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COMMISSIONER BURKE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services