CITY OF NORWALK
FAIR RENT COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 1, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE

ATTENDANCE: John Church, Chair; Fran Collier-Clemmons; Peter Halladay; Sonja Oliver; Dora Witherspoon; Lunise Constant (7:42 p.m.)

STAFF: Carlos Duque, Fair Rent Coordinator; Atty. Russell Liskov

a. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Church called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and called the Roll as indicated above.

b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

October 4, 2023

** **MS. COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
** **MS. OLIVER SECONDED**
** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Constant joined the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

c. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Church thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting. He said there are a number of articles that talk about the housing situation in Norwalk and encouraged the Commissioners to read those articles. He asked the Commissioners to think about the rental impact in Norwalk and how the Fair Rent Commission is one of the few mechanisms that keeps rents at a reasonable level.

d. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Duque reported that in less than 30 days, he assisted 43families/households and spent a lot of time trying to explain the Section 8 program. The Housing Authority case workers should be doing this. He added that he does a lot of work that should be done by the Housing Authority. He said he raised this issue to his leadership.

Mr. Church asked Mr. Duque to schedule a call with him and Ms. Penn Williams regarding the Housing Authority.

On October 20th, Mr. Duque did a Facebook Live with Latino Unidos, a group created by Ms. Zuniga where he gave an overview of Fair Rent. Mr. Duque noted people are comfortable reaching out to him because he speaks Spanish.

On October 25th, the Norwalk Housing Authority held a landlord meeting and explained his role and the role of the Fair Rent Commission. What he does is different from what the Norwalk Housing Authority does.

Last week City Hall announced a Covid housing assistance program for residents who have been impacted by covid. Mr. Duque said that fair rent commissions are forming around the State and they are reaching out to him for guidance.

Mr. Church told Mr. Duque that it was great that he gets out into the community to provide valuable education to the tenants and landlords. He commended Mr. Duque for doing a tremendous job.

e. REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND MOTIONS ON OPEN CASES

a. 1824-23

Attorney Liskov reviewed the case and recommended closing the case.

**** MS. COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO CLOSE THE CASE**
**** MS. OLIVER SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

b. 1825-23

Attorney Liskov reviewed the case and recommended closing the case.

**** MS. OLIVER MOVED TO CLOSE THE CASE**
**** MS. WITHERSPOON SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

c. 1831-23

Attorney Liskov reviewed the case the recommended taking no action.

**** MS. OLIVER MOVED TO TAKE NO ACTION**
**** MS. WITHERSPOON SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

d. 1832-23

Attorney Liskov reviewed the case and recommended taking no action.

**** MS. OLIVER MOVED TO TAKE NO ACTION**
**** MR. HALLADAY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

e. 1834-23

Attorney Liskov reviewed the case and recommended taking no action.

**** MS. OLIVER MOVED TO TAKE NO ACTION**
**** MS. WITHERSPOON SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

f. 1835-23

Attorney Liskov reviewed the case and recommended taking no action.

**** MS. OLIVER MOVED TO TAKE NO ACTION**
**** MR. HALLADAY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

g. 1836-23

Attorney Liskov reviewed the case and recommended closing the case.

**** MS. OLIVER MOVED TO CLOSE THE CASE**
**** MR. HALLADAY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

h. 1837-23

Attorney Liskov reviewed the case and recommended taking no action.

****** **MR. OLIVER MOVED TO TAKE NO ACTION**
****** **MS. CONSTANT SECONDED**
****** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

f. **PRESENTATION OF NEW CASES**

i. 1838-23

Attorney Liskov reviewed the case and recommended not hearing the case.

****** **MS. OLIVER MOVED TO NOT HEAR THE CASE**
****** **MR. HALLADAY SECONDED**

Ms. Collier-Clemmons questioned the motion and said the motion should be to take no action.

****** **MS. OLIVER WITHDREW HER MOTION TO NOT HEAR THE CASE**

****** **MS. OLIVER MOVED TO HEAR THE CASE**
****** **MS. WITHERSPOON SECONDED**
****** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

g. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed this evening.

h. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Duque said it was brought to his attention they have a new member of the Commission. He said he will reach out to the individual. In addition, the City Clerk informed Mr. Duque that Commissioners need to go to City Hall to be sworn in.

Ms. Collier-Clemmons asked why the Chair of this Commission is not appraised when a new member was appointed. Mr. Church said he and Mr. Duque should have been appraised; however, he added that he was happy to have a new member on the Commission. Ms. Collier-Clemmons said it would be important for the Chair to know.

i. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

****** **MS. OLIVER MOVED TO ADJOURN**
****** **MS. COLLIER-CLEMMONS SECONDED**
****** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Commissioners wished each other a Happy Thanksgiving.

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services