

**CITY OF NORWALK
FAIR RENT COMMISSION
JANUARY 6, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Patricia Genuario, Chair; John Church, Vice-Chair;
Martin Bernard; Mary Geake; Johnnie Mae Weldon;
Brenda Penn-Williams; Wendell Simms; Richard Stumpf

STAFF: Lawrence Patterson, Field Representative

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by the Chairman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 7, 2009 MEETING.

**** MS. GEAKE MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE
OCTOBER 7, 2010, MEETING AS SUBMITTED.
** MR. BERNARD SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Genuario then read the following report into the record:

Good evening everyone and thank you for attending tonight's January 2010 meeting. I would like to welcome Johnnie Mae Weldon, who was recently appointed to the Fair Rent Commission. I'm sure she will add her knowledge and expertise to our commission and for that, we are most appreciative. Again, welcome from all of us!

Since we have a number of items on the agenda this evening and I have no further business to discuss, I would like to move on so that we can conclude our meeting in a timely manner..

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Genuario, Chair

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Patterson presented Mr. Bovilsky's written report to the Commission and highlighted that there were 82 intakes during the month of October, 52 during November and 74 in December. He stated that there were 248 follow-up contacts in October, 160 in November, and 155 in December related to Fair Rent.

Mr. Patterson welcomed new Commissioner, Johnnie Mae Weldon, who succeeds Stacy Parrigin who resigned at the completion of her term. He presented an updated roster of the Commissioners and schedule of meetings for 2010, and stated that the Commission currently has one vacancy and one commissioner whose term has expired. In addition, he noted that the department is happy to announce that Jazmin Principe has accepted the offer fill the position of Administrative Support II in the office. She is expected to begin on January 15th.

Budget:

Mr. Bovilsky met with Mr. Hamilton and his budget staff and the next step in the budget process is for the Finance Department to present recommended budget and tax levy to the BET and Common Council the second week of February.

In the News:

Mr. Patterson added that Mr. Bovilsky will provide news articles on the housing market, foreclosures, and information of interest to the Commission at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Sub-committee Report on Rental Value Research

Mr. Church stated that the sub-committee has had one meeting and is compiling information from outside sources relative to rental values. He added that there is a better system rather than compiling newspaper data, and they will have a recommendation after the next month's meeting. Mr. Patterson asked for a list of the sub-committee members and Mr. Church stated it consists of himself, Maria Borges-Lopez, and Wendell Simms.

b. 2010-2011 Budget Request

Mr. Patterson stated there was nothing new to report, the budget was kept to a minimum at the request of the Finance Department, as they are looking everywhere to trim budgets. Mr. Church asked about money for conferences, and Mr. Patterson stated that the item had been cut from all department budgets in the City.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Penn-Williams asked about affordable unit availability at the new Avalon building, and Ms. Genuario responded that that was a condition of the building development. Mr. Patterson added that 10% of the units are to be set aside at a more affordable rent, in accordance with zoning regulations, but there was no cap on the rent, and the definition of affordable is vague.

Mr. Patterson requested to start to think about plans for the Spring dinner, and Ms. Genuario stated that she would be happy to coordinate the arrangements. She added that last year's diner was held at O'Neil's Pub, which provided a good central location good food, and ample parking.

There was no other New Business.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND MOTIONS ON OPEN CASES

Case #1594-09: **Wright**, 19 Betts Place #2.

- ** MR. BERNARD MOTIONED TO CLOSE CASE #1594-09.**
- ** MR. SIMMS SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

PRESENTATION OF NEW CASES

Case #1595-09: **Mascia**, 48 Summit Ave #A

- ** MR. CHURCH MOTIONED TO HEAR CASE #1595-09 AS NECESSARY.**
- ** MR. SIMMS SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MS. GEAKE MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MR. SIMMS SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services