



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

MEETING MINUTES

FAIR RENT COMMISSION

December 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM

West Hartford Town Hall Room 314

I. Meeting Opening

- A. Call to Order: Interim Chair Alexis Safo-Agyemen welcomed everyone and started the meeting at 6:31 pm.
- B. Roll Call
Present: Commissioners Alexis Safo-Agyemen, Nichole Berklas, Ashley Rigby, Bruce Wittchen, and Kyle Zelazny.
Commissioner Nastajha Ortiz was absent.
A quorum of members was present.
- C. Approval of Minutes from November 2, 2023 Meeting
Motion made by: Bruce Wittchen
Motion seconded by: Nichole Berklas
Vote: Motion passes unanimously

II. New Business

- A. Explanation of Administrative Hearing Guidelines

Interim Chair Safo-Agyemen advised that everyone was present for the purpose of holding a hearing. The court reporter was present. Interim Chair Safo-Agyemen noted that the parties were notified of the hearing via regular and certified mail, ensured that all parties were present, and went over the hearing procedures.

- B. Case #2023-04, Hanrahan v. The Flagg Road United Church of Christ, Congregational

Commissioner Zelazny swore in all parties and their witnesses.

Interim Chair Safo-Agyemen called the Complainant to the podium. The Complainant introduced Complainant's Exhibits A-E, then provided testimony as to why the Fair Rent Commission Complaint was filed. Interim Chair Safo-Agyemen then gave the Respondent's agent the opportunity to ask questions of the Complainant through her. Commissioners asked questions of the Complainant.

From 6:52 – 7:09 pm the Complainant called her witnesses. Interim Chair Safo-Agyemen then gave the Respondent's agent the opportunity to ask questions of the Complainant's witnesses through her.

Respondent's agent was called to the podium and presents additional evidence.

7:10 pm Recess is taken to make photo copies of the additional evidence provided by Respondent.

7:19 pm Hearing reconvenes

Interim Safo-Agyemen then called the Respondent's agent back to the podium. The Respondent's agent introduced Respondent's Exhibits 1-7 and Respondent's agent provided testimony. Respondent's agent witness also provided testimony.

Interim Chair Safo-Agyemen then gave the Complainant the opportunity to ask questions of the Respondent's agent witness through her. Commissioners asked questions of the Respondent's agent witness.

Interim Chair Safo-Agyemen then gave the Complainant the opportunity to ask questions of the Respondent's agent through her. Commissioners asked questions of the Respondent's agent.

The Parties then had the opportunity to make closing statements. Following closing statements, the Commissioners proceeded with deliberations.

Commissioners discussed orders of the Fair Rent Commission in context to the testimony provided during the hearing.

8:33 pm Interim Chair Safo-Agyemen made a motion that the Fair Rent Commission finds that the rental increase to be excessive as to be harsh and unconscionable to an amount which is fair and equitable.

Seconded by Bruce Wittchen.

Commissioner Rigby votes in favor of the motion. Commissioner Berklas, Zelazny and Wittchen vote against. Motion does not go forward.

8:35 pm - Commissioner Berklas makes a motion to dismiss the complaint.

Commissioners discuss.

8:41 pm – Commissioner Berklas makes a motion to dismiss the complaint. Commissioner Zelazny seconds. Unanimous vote.

III. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.