



**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD FAIR RENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm
West Hartford Town Hall Room 314**

I. Meeting Opening

- A. Call to Order: Chair Nastajha Ortiz called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- B. Roll Call: Chair Nastajha Ortiz conducted roll call.
Present: Commissioners Nichole Berklas, Nastajha Ortiz, Alexis Safo-Agyeman, and Bruce Wittchen. Absent: Commissioners Venica Blythe, Ashley Rigby, and Kyle Zelazny. Commissioner Alexis Safo-Agyeman participated virtually. A quorum of members present.
- C. Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2024 Meeting
Motion made to approve minutes by: Nichole Berklas
Motion seconded by: Bruce Wittchen
Vote: Motion passes unanimously

II. New Business

- A. Chair Ortiz discusses the procedure for this evening's meeting.
Chair Ortiz asks representatives of the Complainant and Respondent to introduce themselves. Complainant is present; the Respondent is absent. Chair Ortiz makes a note that proper notice was made to both parties via regular and certified mail, including sending notice by email.
- B. Vice Chair Berklas makes a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to section 1-200(6)(E) of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss an attorney-client privileged memorandum. Motion passes unanimously. Commission entered into Executive Session and invited Assistant Corporation Counsel Cynthia Lauture to join them at 6:33 pm. Commission exited Executive Session and was back on the record at 6:41pm.
- C. Chair Ortiz explains the administrative hearing guidelines and advises that all parties have a right to present oral, written testimony and documentary evidence; offer rebuttal; examine all evidence presented at the hearings; and present witnesses on their

behalf. Complainant affirms that she understands the guidelines, and Complainant is sworn in.

D. Case #2024-05, Pagan v. Westwood Condominiums, LLC

At 6:44pm, Complainant testifies as to why she has filed the complaint. At 6:47 pm, a witness on behalf of the Complainant testifies. Commissioners then ask questions of both the Complainant and the witness. At 6:57 pm, the Commissioners discuss the testimony. At 7:07 pm, the Commissioners unanimously find that an act of retaliation has occurred and the Fair Rent Commission issues a cease and desist.

III. Adjournment

A. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.