



**West Hartford Fair Rent Commission Special Meeting
Town of West Hartford - Legislative Chambers Room 314
50 South Main Street, West Hartford CT 06107
August 28, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Minutes**

I. Meeting Opening

- A. Call to Order: Chair Ortiz calls the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- B. Roll Call: Chair Ortiz conducts roll call.
Present: Commissioners Nichole Berklas, Venica Blythe, Nastajha Ortiz, John Souza, and Bruce Wittchen.
Absent: Commissioners Kate Martin and Alexis Safo-Agyeman.
A quorum of members is present.
- C. Approval of Minutes from June 26, 2025 Meeting
Motion to approve minutes is made by Commissioner Berklas.
Motion is seconded by Commissioner Souza.
Vote: Motion passes unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from August 21, 2025 Meeting
Motion to approve minutes is made by Commissioner Berklas.
Motion is seconded by Commissioner Wittchen.
Vote: Motion passes unanimously.

II. New Business

- A. Discussion of Procedure for Meeting
Chair Ortiz discusses the procedure for this evening's meeting.
- B. #2025-07, Bolton v. Ogbonna
Chair Ortiz calls the parties in the matter of Bolton v. Ogbonna. The parties are sworn in. Complainant puts on their case and the Commissioners ask questions of Complainant. Respondent puts on their case and the Commissioners ask questions of the Respondent. The parties each make a closing statement. Commissioners begin deliberating. Commissioner Ortiz makes a motion that the rent be placed in escrow until the rental unit is found to be in compliance with local health and safety requirements,

up to three months. Commissioner Blythe seconds the motion. Motion passes by unanimous vote. At 7:23 pm there is a recess. The Commission reconvenes at 7:29 pm.

C. #2025-05, Meyer v. Dalton

The Fair Rent Commission Ombudsman provides a status update in the matter of Meyer v. Dalton. Commissioners ask questions of the Ombudsman. There is a discussion. A motion is brought to have both parties attend a meeting on September 18th for a report back. Commissioner Ortiz seconds the motion. The motion passes by a unanimous vote.

D. Town Announcement

Commissioner Ortiz has resigned from the Fair Rent Commission. The Commission thanks Commissioner Ortiz for her time dedicated to the Commission.

III. Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 7:50 pm.