



West Hartford Fair Rent Commission Special Meeting

Town of West Hartford - Legislative Chambers Room 314

50 South Main Street, West Hartford CT 06107

February 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Minutes

I. Meeting Opening

A. Call to Order: Chair Berklas calls the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

B. Roll Call: Chair Berklas conducts roll call. Present: Commissioners Nichole Berklas, Paige Marion, Kate Martin, John Souza, Alexis Safo-Agyeman and Bruce Wittchen.

Alternates: Commissioners Gregory Konover and Alberto Cortes
Commissioner Konover serving as a regular member.

Absent: Commissioners Kate Martin

A quorum of members present.

C. Approval of Minutes from the December 15, 2025, meeting.
Motion made by Commissioner Wittchen. Seconded by
Commissioner Safo-Ayegman. Unanimous vote to approve minutes
of December 15, 2025, meeting.

D. Commission member update. On December 17, 2025, the Town
Council appointed three alternates to the Fair Rent Commission.
Chair Berklas welcomes the two alternates present for the hearing,
Gregory Konover and Alberto Cortes.

II. New Business

A. Case #2026-02, Ambrose v. Larsen. The West Hartford Bloomfield
Health District conducted a follow-up inspection regarding 2026-
02. Subsequently, the Respondent in this matter has requested a
continuance, which was administratively granted. Matter will be
scheduled for a hearing in March.

B. Case #2026-02, Bolton v. Ogbonna. Chair Berklas calls the parties
in the matter of the retaliation hearing in #2026-02. Both parties
are present and sworn in. Complainant's Exhibits are marked.
Complainant puts on their case. Respondents asks questions of
Complainant through the Chair. Commissioners ask question of
Complainant. Respondent comes forward. Respondent's Exhibits

are marked. Respondent puts on their case. Commissioners ask question of Respondent's agent.

- C. Deliberations. Commissioners discuss the case. Commissioner Safo-Ayegman makes a motion to dismiss the case based on no retaliation. Commissioner Blythe seconds the motions. Unanimous vote to dismiss the complaint on a finding of no retaliation.
- D. Status Update Case #2025-08, Ebert v. Geckler. On October 30, 2025, the Commission met in the matter of FRC Case # 2025-08. Following a hearing in which testimony and evidence were presented, the Commission continued the matter for final disposition for 45 days to allow the Parties to resolve the issues raised by the West Hartford Bloomfield Health District. The 45-day mark was met on December 15, 2025. Commissioners met on December 15, 2025, and found that the Complainant's rent should be placed in escrow until the Commission receives notice from the West Hartford Bloomfield Health District that it has completed the required repairs. The Fair Rent Commission Ombudsman provides a status update on the property. The Commissioners asked the Ombudsman questions. A finding was made to have the parties report back to the Commission in May with a status update, and to have a representative of the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District available.
- E. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.