



West Hartford Fair Rent Commission Special Meeting

Town of West Hartford - Legislative Chambers Room 314

50 South Main Street, West Hartford CT 06107

Monday March 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Minutes

I. Meeting Opening

- A. Call to Order: Chair Berklas calls the meeting to order at 6:34pm.
- B. Roll Call: Chair Berklas conducts roll call. Present: Commissioners Nichole Berklas, Paige Marion, Kate Martin (arrived at 6:43), John Souza, Alexis Safo-Agyeman and Bruce Wittchen.
Alternates: Commissioners Alberto Cortes
Commissioner Cortes serving as a regular member.
Absent: Commissioners Alexis Safo-Agyeman and Venica Blythe
A quorum of members present.
- C. Approval of Minutes from the February 26, 2026 meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Cortes. Seconded by Commissioner Wittchen. Unanimous vote to approve minutes of February 26, 2026 meeting.

II. New Business

- A. Case #2026-02, Ambrose v. Larsen. Matter was scheduled for a reschedule hearing, however the case was withdrawn and has closed.
- B. Case #2025-08, Commission convened in this matter previously, this is a status update to hear as to the progression of the matter. Director Krauss of the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District provides a status update. Commissioners ask questions. Complainant provides further updates. Commissioners ask questions. Director Krauss provides follow-up. Commissioners ask questions. Commissioner Souza makes a motion that as the condition remains harsh and unconscionable that rent in escrow should be reduced. Discussion by Commissioners regarding motion. Seconded by Commissioner Cortes. Unanimous.
- C. 7:12 pm Recess. 7:18 pm reconvene.
- D. Case #2026-04, Garcia v. R. Duong Properties, LLC. Chair Berklas

calls the parties in the matter of the retaliation hearing in #2026-04. Both parties are present and sworn in. Complainant's Exhibits are marked. Complainant puts on their case. Commissioners ask question of Complainant. Respondent comes forward. Respondent's Exhibits are marked. 8:03 pm to allow copying of Respondent's Exhibits. 8:07 Reconvene. Respondent puts on their case. Commissioners ask question of Respondent's agent. Deliberations. Commissioners discuss the case. Commissioner Berklaas makes a motion to dismiss the case based on no retaliation. Commissioner Souza seconds the motions. Commissioner Cortes abstains from voting. Motion passes 6-0-1(abstention) vote to dismiss the complaint on a finding of no retaliation.

E. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.