



WEST HARTFORD

West Hartford Fair Rent Commission Special Meeting
Legislative Chambers Room 314
50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107
Thursday April 30, 2026 at 6:30
Meeting Minutes

I. Meeting Opening

- A. Call to Order: Chair Berklas calls the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.
- B. Roll Call: Chair Berklas conducts roll call. **Present:** Commissioners Nichole Berklas, Paige Marion, Alexis Safo-Agyeman, Venica Blythe. Alternate: Commissioner Gregory Konover. Commissioner Konover is serving as a regular member. **Absent:** Commissioners Kate Martin, John Souza, Bruce Wittchen. Alternate: Commissioner Alberto Cortes. **A quorum of members is present.**
- C. Approval of Minutes from the March 16, 2026. Motion made by Commissioner Safo-Agyeman to amend the minutes to reflect the March 16, 2026 date instead of the incorrect March 20, 2026 date. Seconded by Commissioner Marion. Minutes approved, abstention from Commissioner Konover. Vote: 4-0-1.

II. New Business

- A. Discussion of Procedure for Meeting. Chair Berklas explains that there is one hearing, which is a hearing on a rent increase and a retaliation hearing.
- B. Explanation of Administrative Hearing Guidelines. Chair Berklas goes over the order of the proceedings for the hearing.
- C. Case #2026-05, Bolton v. Ogbonna. Chair Berklas calls the parties in the matter of the hearing in #2026-02. Both parties are present and sworn in. Complainant's Exhibits are marked. Complainant puts on their case. Respondents ask questions of the Complainant through the Chair. Commissioners ask questions of the Complainant. Respondent comes forward, and recess is called for the copying of exhibits. Recess at 7:04 pm. Reconvene at 7:09 pm. Respondent comes forward. Respondent's Exhibits are marked. Respondent puts on their case. Commissioners ask questions of the Respondent. Parties are offered the opportunity to make closing statements. Complainant makes closing statement. Respondent makes a closing statement.

- D.** Deliberations. Commissioners discuss the case. Commissioner Marion makes a motion that the rental charge is excessive, harsh, and unconscionable. Seconded by Commissioner Safo- Agyeman. Vote: 2-3. Motion fails. Commissioner Konover makes a motion to dismiss the complaint. Seconded by Commissioner Blythe. Vote: 3-2. Motion passes. Commissioner Konover makes a motion to dismiss the case based on no retaliation. Commissioner Blythe seconds the motions Vote: 3-2. Discussion of retaliation complaint. Commissioner Blythe makes a motion to dismiss the retaliation complaint. Seconded by Commissioner Konover. Unanimous vote to dismiss the complaint on a finding of no retaliation.
- E.** Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.