

ERIE COUNTY FAIR HOUSING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS HEARING  
MINUTES

Tuesday, May 11th, 2021; 10am

Erie County Rath Building – Department of Environment & Planning  
95 Franklin Street, Buffalo NY 14202  
Call-In Meeting (WebEx)

Board Attendees:

Karen Rybicki – ECDSS (Chair)  
Pamela Lanich – WNY Law Center (Secretary)  
Karen King – Public Advocacy  
Terri Flaherty - Belmont

Other Attendees:

Andrew Dearing - DEP  
Paul D’Orlando – DEP  
Kristen Walder – Erie County Attorney’s Office  
Dan Corbitt—HOME  
Alejandro Guidos—HOME  
Heather Abraham--UB

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of minutes
  - a. February 9, 2021—Meeting **(VOTE)**
    - i. Motion to approve—Karen Rybicki ; 2<sup>nd</sup>—Pamela Lanich;  
Unanimous approval
3. Board Terms
  - a. Terri Flaherty’s term up in May **(VOTE)**
    - i. Vote to extend term for additional 3 years—Motion to  
extend—Karen King; 2<sup>nd</sup>—Karen Rybicki; Unanimous Approval
4. 2020 annual report update
  - a. Report is with the County Legislature
5. Discrimination cases update
  - a. Covid moratorium—less cases overall

- b. Dickey—hearing was held before Board and case was referred to County Attorney’s office—file has been opened with County Attorney to research pursuing litigation
  - c. Croomb—HOME has a conflict due to litigation against same respondent, so case has been referred to County Attorney to step in to try to work on conciliation agreement and respondent is interested in conciliation and possibility of a global settlement. However, per HOME this could be a problem if confidentiality of settlement is required
  - d. Cases 2020-2, 2020-3—HOME working with the complainant to pursue conciliation
  - e. 2020-4—conciliation not moving forward at this time, as respondent disputes that there was ever contact with complainant
    - i. Since conciliation is not an option, Board will need to convene a hearing June 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM
    - ii. Letter will be sent out to respondent with hearing date
  - f. Some new cases being investigated regarding source of income discrimination. If evidence of discrimination is found, next steps will be taken
6. Motion to adjourn (**VOTE**) Karen Rybicki—; Terri Flaherty 2<sup>nd</sup>—; Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned 10:33 am

Minutes submitted by Pamela Lanich 5/11/2021

Next Quarterly Meeting: August 10, 2021 at 10:00am