

ERIE COUNTY FAIR HOUSING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, August 11th, 2020 10am

Erie County Rath Building – Department of Environment & Planning

95 Franklin Street, Buffalo NY 14202

Call-In Meeting Due to Covid-19

Board Attendees:

Karen Rybicki – ECDSS (Chair)

Cheryl Andolino – Belmont (Vice Chair)

Pamela Lanich – WNY Law Center (Secretary)

Karen King – Public Advocacy

Other Attendees:

Paul D’Orlando – DEP

Andrew Dearing - DEP

Kristen Walder – Erie County Attorney’s Office

Dan Corbitt – HOME

1. Approval of Minutes – July 14th, 2020 meeting **(VOTE)**
 - a. Motion to approve—Cheryl Andolino; 2nd – Karen Rybicki;
Unanimous approval
2. Status of discrimination complaints—updates from Dan from HOME
 - a. Active Cases (5)
 - i. Buggs v. Dickey case 2020-1
 1. HOME does recommend probable cause based on investigation and text messages submitted but case is moving toward conciliation

2. Does Board need to approve conciliation agreements?
Kristin will investigate
3. Proposed conciliation agreement with \$2,000 to complainant based on her damages/time she was unable to find another apartment

ii. Murray V. Empire

1. Moving toward conciliation
2. Proposed conciliation agreement with \$1,500 to complainant
3. Dan can prepare memos explaining the damages of respondents to understand how conciliation amounts have been determined

iii. Murray v. Free Will case 2020-3

1. Notification letter sent out July 16th
2. HOME has not yet received a response

iv. Boulware v. Der Yaseen case 2020-4

1. Notification letter sent out July 16th
2. HOME received a response from Respondent's attorney— doesn't raise legal defenses but says that respondent is an immigrant and there may have been miscommunication issues
3. HOME has identified that there needs to be outreach to immigrant/refugee communities regarding their responsibilities as landlords and fairing housing law obligations

4. Case will probably move toward conciliation
- v. Croom v. Peace Bridge case 2020-5
1. Notification letter sent out July 16th
 2. HOME has not yet received a response
 3. Update on state supreme court cases
 4. Adjourn—motion to adjourn Karen Rybicki; 2nd Karen King; unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned 10:35AM.

Minutes submitted by Pamela Lanich 8/14/2020

Next meeting September 8th at 11:00AM