

ERIE COUNTY FAIR HOUSING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 10th, 2020 10:00am
Erie County Rath Building – Department of Environment & Planning
95 Franklin Street, Buffalo NY 14202
Call-In Meeting Due to Covid-19

Board Attendees:

Cheryl Andolino – Belmont (Vice Chair)
Pamela Lanich – WNY Law Center (Secretary)
Karen King – Public Advocacy
Sharon Ciminelli--BNAR

Other Attendees:

Paul D’Orlando – DEP
Andrew Dearing - DEP
Kristen Walder – Erie County Attorney’s Office
Dan Corbitt – HOME

1. Approval of Minutes – August 11th, 2020 meeting **(VOTE)**
 - a. Motion to approve—Cheryl Andolino; 2nd – Sharon Ciminelli;
Unanimous approval
2. Status of discrimination complaints
 - a. Active Cases
 - a.i. Buggs v. Dickey case 2020-1
 - a.i.1. Case is in conciliation phase with a proposed
conciliation agreement

a.i.2. Board has reviewed and accepts the conciliation agreement with no concerns

a.ii. Murray V. Empire case 2020-2

a.ii.1. HOME has been unable to reach Ms. Murray

a.ii.2. Without complainant, HOME not moving forward with proposed conciliation agreement at this time, though there is probable cause

a.ii.3. Fair Housing training can still be required for respondent

a.iii. Murray v. Free Will case 2020-3

a.iii.1. HOME has been unable to reach Ms. Murray

a.iii.2. HOME received a reply from respondent's attorney, which does not raise any legal defenses but expresses that respondent is remorseful and plans to follow the law in the future

a.iii.3. HOME would suggest that a Fair Housing seminar be required for respondent to fully understand all aspects of the law

a.iv. Boulware v. Der Yaseen case 2020-4

a.iv.1. HOME received response from respondent's attorney, denying refusal to rent to anyone with a section 8 voucher and stating that one of the units is currently rented to a tenant with a section 8 voucher. Also states that respondent is an immigrant and that there is a language barrier issue. HOME's testers confirmed complainant's allegations and HOME found probable cause.

a.iv.2. Case will probably move toward conciliation

a.iv.3. HOME would suggest Fair Housing training

a.v. Croom v. Peace Bridge case 2020-5

a.v.1. HOME received response from respondent's attorney, proposing a global settlement for this case before the Board and another unrelated case against respondent in Supreme Court. HOME responded that such a settlement would be a conflict of interest, as these are separate complaints by separate individuals and that respondent would need to respond to this complaint on its own.

a.v.2. HOME is not sure whether conciliation will be possible and case could need to move forward with a hearing before the Board

a.v.3. Should give respondent a final deadline to respond before referring the case to the Board to move forward with noticing and scheduling a hearing before the Board

3. Other updates

a. Affordable housing project but it is publicly opposed. HOME is monitoring.

b. State Supreme Court cases update

4. Motion to adjourn--Sharon Ciminelli; 2nd – Karen King; Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned 11:08AM.

Minutes submitted by Pamela Lanich 11/10/2020

Next meeting February 11, 2021 at 10:00AM