

ERIE COUNTY FAIR HOUSING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022; 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)

Sharon Ciminelli--BNAR

Terri Flaherty – Belmont

Karen King—Public Advocacy

Other Attendees:

Paul D’Orlando – DEP

Dan Corbitt—HOME

Heather Abraham- SUNY Buffalo Law School

Giovanni Gaglianese- SUNY Buffalo Law School

Qui Essence Harris- SUNY Buffalo Law School

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of minutes
 - a. August 9, 2022—Meeting (**VOTE**)
 - i. Motion to approve—Karen Rybicki; 2nd— Karen King; Unanimous approval
3. 2021 Fair Housing annual report—still with the County legislature
4. Discrimination Cases Update—2022-1
 - a. source of income discrimination/refusal by Northstar to accept DSS security agreement
 - b. HOME spoke with housing provider who confirmed refusal to accept DSS security agreement but said they will accept it going forward
 - c. HOME wants to get agreement in writing and for complainant to be reimbursed, as she had to borrow funds to pay the security deposit, and to make sure this housing provider does not continue this practice

- d. Board could request additional relief under conciliation to provide relief to other tenants harmed
 - e. Board to send letters to complainant and Northstar that investigation has started
 - f. HOME is now working out the terms of an agreement in this case.
5. Discrimination Cases Update
- a. 2020-2 and 2020-3 and 2020-4—HOME cannot establish contact with complainant
 - b. 2021-1—HOME trying to work out an agreement for complainant to move into apartment when it's available with possible reduced rent amount
 - c. Cases with County Attorney
 - i. 2020-5—conflict with HOME so referred to County Attorney—were working on conciliation but can't reach respondent since property was sold in 2021. Tenant has since moved to Atlanta GA and is not interested in pursuing this case. May move to have the Law Department close this case.
6. SUNY Buffalo Law School- Fair Housing Plan- representatives in attendance from the UB Law School detailed a fair housing plan that they have created that will be sent to the Partnership for Public Good for review. Among other action items in the plan they seek to have Erie County assist in the creation of 5 new affordable housing projects in the next two years. Their plan also seeks to promote practices that promote fair housing.
7. Pamela Lanich resigned from the board in December, 2022. As per the board by-laws we will seek to add a representative from either the WNY Law Center or Neighborhood Legal Services before the February meeting.
8. Motion to adjourn—Terry Flaherty 2nd Karen Rybicki; Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned 10:55 am

Minutes submitted by Paul D'Orlando 11/22/2022

Next Quarterly Meeting: February 14 ,2023 at 10:00am