

ERIE COUNTY FAIR HOUSING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023; 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

Jean Bennett- DEP

Dan Corbitt—HOME

Jane Hughes – WNY Law Center

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Vote to fill Pamela Lanich Board Position with Jane Hughes
 - a. Motion to approve- Karen King; 2nd-Sharon Ciminelli;
Unanimous approval
3. Approval of minutes
 - a. November 15, 2022—Meeting **(VOTE)**
 - i. Motion to approve—Sharon Ciminelli; 2nd— Terri Flaherty;
Unanimous approval
4. 2022 Fair Housing annual report—with the County legislature
5. Discrimination Case Update
 - a. 2022-1
 - i. source of income discrimination/refusal by Northstar to accept
DSS security agreement

- ii. HOME spoke with housing provider who confirmed refusal to accept DSS security agreement but said they will accept it going forward
 - iii. HOME wanted 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
 - iv. Northstar refuses to agree complainant suffered damage
 - v. Unlikely case will be resolved without a hearing
 - vi. Paul D'Orlando to review by-laws for process to set date for hearing
 - b. 2021-1
 - i. HOME unable to get complainant into the apartment due to current occupancy
 - ii. HOME looking to resolve case with a monetary settlement
 - c. 2020-5
 - i. Property was sold in 2021.
 - ii. Complainant moved to Atlanta, GA and not interested in pursuing case.
 - iii. Case is moot and hereby closed
 - d. 2020-1
 - i. Case resolved
 - e. 2020-2 and 2020-3 and 2020-4
 - i. HOME cannot establish contact with complainants
 - ii. Board to draft and send a closing letter stating with no further response, cases will be closed
- 6. Motion to adjourn—Sharon Ciminelli 2nd Karen Rybicki; Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned 10:38 am

Minutes submitted by Jane Hughes 2/14/2023

Next Quarterly Meeting: May 4, 2023 at 10:00am