

ERIE COUNTY FAIR HOUSING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 11, 2025; 10am

Erie County Rath Building – Department of Environment & Planning
95 Franklin Street, Buffalo NY 14202

Board Invitees:

Karen Rybicki – ECDSS (Chair)

Sharon Ciminelli – BNAR

Karen King – Public Advocacy

Terri Flaherty – Belmont

Nico Soria – Western New York Law Center

Other Invitees:

Paul D’Orlando – DEP

Jean Bennett – DEP

Dan Corbitt - HOME

1. Welcome

- Opened at 10:02.

2. Approval of Minutes – November 18, 2024

- Karen Rybiki motion to approve; unanimous approval.

3. Annual Report

- Report is submitted and may be discussed at committee meeting.
- Numbers are steady in the City, but uptick in surrounding areas.

4. Case Updates

- 2024-3, 2024-7:
 - Working with complainants towards conciliation agreement.
 - Respondent seems willing to negotiate towards settlement.
 - Dickie is a frequent flyer with multiple conciliation agreements.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2025

- Reviewing prior agreements and seeking advice from Stanton RE: whether may be able to pursue action rather than conciliation.
- 2024-5:
 - Conciliation is underway and close to resolution.
- 2024-6:
 - Working through conciliation at this time and close to resolution.
- 2024-4:
 - In contact and hopeful that there will be a conciliation agreement.
 - If unable to reach resolution, will advise the Board if further action is necessary.
 - Complainant feels entitled to significant monetary compensation, but Respondent feels demand is excessive.
- 2024-8:
 - No response from Respondents, primarily working towards getting complainant into safe and affordable housing.
 - HOME was able to assist in getting housing.
 - Violation has taken place, but no restitution has been received at this time.
 - Does it make sense to send another notice?
 - Will send another notice with eye towards getting an answer from Respondent.
 - Investigation report was created and will be submitted before new notice is issued.

5. New Complaints

- Couple of new complaints in process, but may be resolved without Board involvement.

6. New Board Members for ECDSS and BNAR

- Voted on in May 2025.

7. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by Karen Rybiki and unanimous approval at 10:18.
- Next Quarterly Meeting: May 13, 2025 at 10:00 am

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8. Minutes submitted by Nico Soria 2/12/2025

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