

**CITY OF NORWALK
FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Rev. Jeffrey Ingraham, Chair; Carol Frank, Barbara Hudgins,
Nancy Burke

STAFF: Atty. Margaret Suib, Fair Housing Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Ingraham called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2009 MINUTES

The following change were noted:

Page 2, OLD BUSINESS header: please move the header for **OLD BUSINESS** to just above **DISCUSSION WITH ZONING COMMISSIONERS OF FAIR HOUSING ISSUES**

**** MS. FRANK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2009 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MS. HUDGINS SECONDED**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FHO'S MONTHLY REPORT

Atty. Suib reviewed the Fair Housing Monthly Statistics for FY 2008/2009 and for the first two months of FY 2009/2010. Rev. Ingraham asked if the other Fair Housing Officers prepare the report in the same manner. Ms. Suib explained that most of the other FHO's were not linked to a Commission and most of the other FHO's were only part-time.

The discussion then moved to the rising number of evictions. Ms. Suib explained that the numbers in each of the categories were reflections of the inquiries that she receives. The subject of Section 8 voucher loss then came up and was discussed.

Ms. Hudgins asked about Ms. Suib's increased workload. Ms. Suib then gave a brief overview of her routines and then reviewed the remainder of her monthly activity report with the Commission.

Ms. Burke asked if the Norwalk Housing Authority five year construction plan included things like new construction. Ms. Burke suggested that the housing complex on Ely Avenue be renamed and have several different addresses because there is a long history of unfortunate incidents associated with the complex. Rev. Ingraham said that one of the long term plans is to redevelop Roodner Court so that it becomes a desirable place to live.

**** MS. FRANK MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FAIR HOUSING OFFICER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED.**

**** MS. BURKE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

A. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE FHO

Ms. Suib explained that the Commission had decided not to do an evaluation in 2007 and that this was noted in the minutes of the meeting. The Commission then discussed how they would compile the comments from Performance Review for the Fair Housing Officer. Rev. Ingraham said that he would compile the comments and then Ms. Suib could decide whether she wished to have the review done in an executive session. This was agreeable to all.

B. DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVE HIMES OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

Ms. Suib said that there had been a meeting with Representative Himes on September 3rd and she felt that it was a very timely meeting. Ms. Frank said that Rep. Himes was very well prepared and felt that the meeting went well. Ms. Hudgins said that she knew from his background that he was very familiar with affordable housing. Ms. Suib said that the group focused on the bank lending practices. Ms. Frank said that Rep. Himes was well spoken, engaging and an excellent listener.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Hudgins asked if there were any plans for showing "Brick by Brick". Ms. Suib said that the film was currently out on loan to one of the Human Relations Committee members. Ms. Suib said that it would be important to encourage people show it to their local groups. Rev. Ingraham suggested that it might generate some interest around Black History Month. Ms. Suib suggested that she discuss a joint showing with Human Relations. Ms. Burke said that perhaps NCC might be interested, also.

ADJOURNMENT

** MS. FRANK MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MS. HUDGINS SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services