

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE TENANT LANDLORD COMMISSION**  
**March 11, 2025**

**TLC Commissioners Present:** David Timm (Chair), Andrew Ferreira (Vice Chair) John Reynolds, Griffin Koupal, Sarah Lanford , Kristin Clegg, Nature Lewis,  
**Commissioners Absent:** Adrian Tomala (excused absent)

Meeting recording available on webpage

Staff present: Rolda Nedd, Hector Mercado

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**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

**Public Comment:** Rebecca Reitzel resident of Crystal House I provided testimony of the ongoing situation at Crystal House regarding issues of building safety and security, maintenance and lease renewals. Formerly managed by JBG, owned by Washing Housing Conservancy. Security camera system installed but unsure whether it functions. People able to enter the building due to doors being left open. Lost FOBs become available and shared. Unlocked units allow for entry and occupancy by vagrants. Management responds that there may not be enough locking mechanisms in stock and doors remain without locks. Security request can't be honored due to cost. Alexis Fox , another resident added to the discussion by focusing on managerial issues, poor customer service and inadequate and untimely response in general from management; requested help from the TLC to communicate with the company.

Commissioner Lewis asked Ms Fox whether there was consideration of bringing a lawsuit against the management company. Ms Fox responded that some consideration given but not confident that this will bring results or be taken seriously. Commissioner Clegg suggested that the problem could be approached from a Fair Housing lens and that WHC's role in the situation as owner makes them liable as well.

**Motions, Votes**

Commission to send letter to the owner WHC and property management Cushman and Wakefield to invite to the next TLC meeting.

Approval of the February 11, minutes. Motion moved and seconded with necessary correction.

**Item #1. NAVAHA presentation by Alice Logan**

Commissioners introduced themselves. Alice Logan is the Director of the Arlington Branch of NAVAHA. The organization includes representation from jurisdictions in the metropolitan region. Shared information on the organizations mission, purpose and it's key role in advocating for provision of Affordable Housing across jurisdictions. Ms Hogan highlighted advocacy opportunities for members to attend such as, County meetings. Open Mondays meetings with Board members. The organization holds "Lunch and Learn" monthly events; yearly MLK Day event- Listen and Learn event on Affordable Housing and the Leckey Forum annually in September. Tenants' advocacy-

Melwood, Serrano. Support for the Budget. Mentor program for persons interested in or pursuing careers in the housing field.

#### **Item #2 . BU-GATA's Year-end Report presentation by Saul Reyes**

Saul Reyes, Executive Director, provided a snapshot of the issues that BU-GATA addressed during fiscal year 2024. The activities included - eviction Prevention, Housing location, help with completing Apartment applications and lease renewals including the recertification process, lease violations and lease interpretation and many others. The BUGATA organization originated in Buckingham but serves the entire County. Website, organization referrals and referrals through word of mouth are primary means of publicity. Commissioner Clegg thanked Saul for the presentation and suggested that slides could be used as a referral for future discussions.

#### **Item #3 FY2026 Budget discussion led by Vice Chair, Ferreira**

Major areas recommended for approval and support.

1. Recommends support for Code Enforcement positions. Reduction in Code Enforcement staff proposed.
2. Support for continuation of funding (\$150,000) for CAF inspections.

Motion moved to prepare a letter to the Board in support of these two items as these are more pertinent and within the scope of TLC.

Conversation resumed on the public comment provided by Crystal House residents. Review of concerns raised. Chair Timm in favor of writing a letter inviting the property management company Cushman and Wakefield to attend the TLC meeting first to talk about issues, before writing a letter to the Board. Staff to request more information about the situation from the property management company, request attendance at meeting and provide a response. The following areas were highlighted:

1. Security issues
2. Maintenance
3. Non-responsiveness

Draft letter based on information received; distribute to commissioners for review and send to WHC and Cushman and Wakefield. Moved by Chair, Timm and seconded by Commissioner Lanford.

#### **Subcommittee Update:**

Charter and Relocation review Guidelines report provided by Commissioner Ferreira. Review of Relocation guidelines almost completed. He acknowledged the addition of an Appendix from Commissioner Lewis and highlighted edits shared among members to produce a draft. Next meeting they will discuss one-pager provided by Saul Reyes and proceed with finalizing the document for presentation to the full commission at the April 9 meeting.

**Staff Report-** Staff reported on appointments and participation by Commissioners on subcommittees of the Housing Commission and CDCAC.

Meeting adjourned a 8:35 p.m.