

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

December 16, 2014

7:30 PM Conference 4/5
Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Callender, Durant,
Fee, Hargraves, Hine, Kazmi, Luse, Nguyen

Absent:

Commissioners: Chung, Kirk, Roark, Rosier

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Department of Cable and Consumer
Services
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Chairman Fee.

Minutes

The minutes of the November 18, 2014, meeting were approved.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee spoke about spam emails going out to friends under his name and to ignore them if received. He is working to get the issue corrected.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman told commissioners that the County Executive is meeting this week to discuss the FY 2016 budget.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Nguyen had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Hargraves thanked staff for their assistance with his friend's Verizon issue. Also he mentioned receiving calls from people claiming to be from the IRS and concerned whether consumers will be scammed into paying money.

Commissioner Callender spoke about companies advertising one price online and then charging another price at checkout. Staff advised that complaint can be handled through Consumer Affairs.

Commissioner Hine had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Luse bought up an article that was in the Washington Post on Sunday about the reversal of the cease and desist orders that were issued to Uber and Lyft in Virginia. She raised a concern that the taxi industry in Fairfax County may have to change their rates in order to compete with the influx of competitors that were not previously allowed to operate in Virginia. She proposed to form a subcommittee to look into the Fairfax County code and explore how taxi companies can begin to compete with new companies offering the same service at lower rates, which are unregulated. Staff commented that the Board of Supervisors would be monitoring the decisions in the General Assembly regarding Uber and that taxi company owners like the current regulations.

Commissioner Belkowitz also expressed concern over the Uber issue.

Commissioner Durant announced she will contact the commissioners concerning the upcoming election.

Commissioner Kazmi spoke about an issue with Verizon that was resolved, but expressed surprise that an additional charge is imposed if there is an issue inside your home and it was not covered under your monthly bill.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

The meeting ended at 7:39 PM.