

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

February 15, 2022

7:30 PM
Video Meeting
Chairperson Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Callender, Fee,
Gulakowski, Kirk, Kratovil, Roark, Rosier,
Springer, Svab

Absent:

Commissioners: Hargraves

Staff:

Rebecca L. Makely, Acting Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
Prescott Barbash, Consumer Specialist I
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairperson Fee.

Quorum, Location, and Audibility of Member's Voices

Chairperson Fee conducted a Roll Call to verify that a quorum of members were participating; and that each member's voice was clear, audible, and at appropriate volume for all of the other members; and the location from which member was participating. The roll call was as follows:

Conduct Roll Call:

Chairperson Fee, Burke
Commissioner Belkowitz, Fairfax Station
Commissioner Callender, Great Falls
Commissioner Gulakowski, Burke
Commissioner Hargraves, Absent
Commissioner Kirk, Falls Church
Commissioner Kratovil, Mount Vernon
Commissioner Roark, Lorton
Commissioner Rosier, Great Falls
Commissioner Springer, Oakton
Commissioner Svab, Fairfax

Chairperson Fee passed the virtual gavel to Vice Chairperson Gulakowski. A motion was made by Chairperson Fee that each member's voice was adequately heard by each member of the Consumer Protection Commission (Commission.) This motion was seconded by Commissioners Callender, Springer, and Svab. This motion passed 10-0-0.

Need for an Electronic Meeting

A motion was made by Chairperson Fee that the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic made it unsafe for the Commission to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting, and that as such, FOIA's usual procedures, which require the physical assembly of the Commission and the physical presence of the public, could not be implemented safely or practically. Chairperson Fee further moved that the Commission conduct the meeting electronically through a dedicated audio-conferencing line, and that the public access the meeting by calling 571-459-5982 and entering access code 695 758 847#. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kirk. The motion passed 10-0-0.

Need to Dispense with FOIA's Usual Procedures to Assure Continuity in Government/Continue Operations

A motion was made by Chairperson Fee that all of the matters addressed on the agenda addressed the Emergency itself, were necessary for continuity in Fairfax County government, and/or were statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of the Commission's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Kirk. The motion was passed 10-0-0.

Minutes

The minutes for the January 18, 2021, meeting were approved without objection.

Report of the Chairperson

Chairperson Fee had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Report of the Director

Acting Director Makely had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Belkowitz spoke of an issue with identity theft. He contacted Bank of America who recommended he contact the Post Office for a possible change of address. The next day he received a card from the Post Office to confirm his fraudulent change of address to a location in New York.

Commissioner Callender had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Gulakowski expressed difficulty with Teams meeting invite.

A discussion ensued on using other platforms to reach consumers of all ages like Nextdoor, news stations, outreach events, and whether Commissioners can comment on platforms when offering resources provided by the County.

Commissioner Kirk mentioned continued issues with porch pirates taking packages from consumer's homes and that consumers need to consider other options like delivering to a neighbor's house.

Commissioner Kratovil inquired on the status of edits to Chapter 28.1 massage ordinance and CPC involvement in the process. Commissioner Kratovil provided an overview of what led to this discussion and his review of Chapter 28.1 that pertains to the appeal process.

Acting Director Makely advised the Commission that she entered Commissioner Kratovil's redline changes into a draft working copy of Chapter 28.1. She will send the information for their review. Acting Director Makely also stated a memo to the Board was sent late Friday night pertaining to Illicit Massage Establishments and Chapter 28.1. She will review and discuss with Deputy County Executive Seard-McCormick and will review item at the next meeting.

Commissioner Roark had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Rosier had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Springer had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Svab inquired about the removal of the COVID testing site from the Government Center Parking Lot B. Acting Director Makely explained the Virginia Department of Health scheduled the community testing center for 30 days and which has now ended. Acting Director Makely reminded Commissioners that vaccinations were still available with appointment inside the Government Center.

Chairperson Fee spoke about identity theft with a credit union and card used to charge \$100. Chairperson Fee was unhappy with the response with the credit union and filed a complaint with the National Credit Union Administration. Chairperson Fee also mentioned the recent towing legislation that had failed to be approved.

Old Business

Chapter 28.1 Massage Therapy, Establishments and Services

New Business

1. Consumer Affairs 101- Susan Jones, Branch Manager, Consumer Affairs provided an overview of Consumer Affairs services and resources. Commissioners were reminded that March 7-11 is National Consumer Protection Week.

Chairperson Fee made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kirk seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.