

Arlington County Tenant-Landlord Commission

Virtual Meeting 7 p.m.

Meeting Notes – April 14, 2021

Commissioners present: David Timm (Chair), Kirit Mookerjee, Emily Camardo, Matthew Whitfield, Esq, Christopher Wimbush, Nicole Merlene.

Commissioners absent: Bismah Ahmed, Elyse Hayes, Kristin Clegg,

Staff Present: Rolda Nedd, Hector Mercado, Jennifer Daniel

A recording of the meeting is available on the County's [webpage](#).

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Roll call taken.

Public Comment – No one for public comment.

Approval of meeting notes – Meeting minutes for the month of March were unanimously approved.

Presentation #1 - 2021 General Assembly Session Review

Commissioner Mookerjee led the discussion with a review of a document published by Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC), which summarized several bills. He suggested that the TLC stay alert for bills that affect both tenants and landlords. Commissioner Whimbush suggested that the TLC invite advocacy groups to share their interest in bills for the upcoming 2022 Assembly session he will provide information for staff to follow up. Commissioner Merlene suggested that VPLC could be one of those and that attention should focus, on Arlington specific issues, for example, Virginia building codes for situations such as the Serrano.

Presentation #2 VRLTA 101

Commissioner Matthew Whitefield provided a PowerPoint presentation of VRLTA 55.1. which contained all updates as of July 2020. The presentation is available on the TLC webpage. He pointed out that this update includes all tenancies, regardless of how many units owned. There is still no right to an attorney for evictions.

Expansion of the TLC Commission

Chair Timm, introduced discussion of a recommendation to expand the Commission to include one additional landlord (small) and one tenant (to represent residents of committed affordable units). In response to a question about the reason for expansion, it was explained that additional members would bring diverse perspectives, enrich the discussion and expand subcommittee membership. Board member Karantonis indicated that this recommendation is favorable to other Board members. Following a short discussion, a unanimous vote resulted in approval of the recommendation. Motion was taken by Commission Whimbush and seconded by Commissioner Merlene.

Reports- Chair, Timm announced that the Evictions Prevention subcommittee was being formed and the Housing Discrimination subcommittee had held it's first meeting April 7.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.