

**Town of West Hartford
Fair Rent Commission
March 31, 2022 at 6:30 pm
West Hartford Town Hall
Legislative Chambers - Room 314**

I. Meeting Opening

- A. Meeting was called to order at approximately 6:42 PM by Vice Chair Stuart Mahler.
- B. Roll Call Conducted by Secretary Safo-Agyeman.
 - i. Present in person: Commissioner Mahler, Commissioner Ortiz, Commissioner Fulco, Commissioner Berklas
 - ii. Present virtually: Commissioner Safo-Agyeman
 - iii. Absent: Commissioner Rigby and Commissioner Cassidy.
 - iv. **Quorum Present**

II. Membership Update

Vice Chair Mahler welcomed Commissioner Berklas to the Fair Rent Commission. Commissioner Berklas introduced herself.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A. Motion Made: Commissioner Fulco
- B. Motion Seconded: Commissioner Ortiz
- C. Vote: Motion passes unanimously

IV. Explanation of Administrative Hearing Guidelines

Vice Chair Mahler advised that everyone was present for the purpose of holding a hearing. The court reporter was present. Vice Chair Mahler ensured that all parties were present, and went over the hearing procedures. Commissioner Ortiz swore in Complainant, Complainant witness, Respondent's Representative and Respondent's witness.

V. Case #2202-05 Caldwell v. Hexagon Farmington Avenue, LLC.

- A. Complainant was invited to the podium and presented her case to the Commission. Complainant answered various questions from Commission members in regards to her residency. Complainant's witness testified as to her observations and answered questions by the Commission members.
- B. Vice Chair Mahler then asked Respondents' representative to present any evidence to support Complainant's rent increase.
- C. Recess.
- D. The Respondent's representative continued testifying. Then the Respondent's witness testified.
- E. Recess to allow parties to prepare a two minute closing statement. Back on the record at 8:34 pm. Parties presented their respective closing statements.
- F. Commissioner Ortiz motions to make a finding that rental charge is excessive. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Mahler. Motion passes unanimously. The Commission then discussed a fair and equitable rent amount.
- G. Commissioner Mahler made a motion to increase rent by \$200 effective May 10, 2022 and increase the rent by another \$50 in 2023 until the renewal of the lease. Commissioner Ortiz seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

VI. Discussion of any Action Items

- A. Commissioners decide to hold its next meeting, which will be an election meeting, virtually on Thursday, April 28th at 6:30pm.

VII. Adjournment

- A. Motion to Adjourn made by Commissioner Fulco
- B. Motion Seconded by Commissioner Ortiz
- C. Unanimous
- D. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm