

**Town of West Hartford  
Fair Rent Commission  
May 26, 2022 at 6:30 pm  
West Hartford Town Hall  
Legislative Chambers - Room 314**

**I. Meeting Opening**

A. Meeting was called to order at approximately 6:38 PM by Chair Brian Fulco. Roll Call Conducted by Co-Secretary Berklas.

- i. Present in person: Commissioner Mahler, Commissioner Ortiz, Commissioner Fulco, Commissioner Berklas, Commissioner Rigby
- ii. Absent: Commissioner Safo-Agyeman.
- iii. **Quorum Present**

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- A. Motion Made: Commissioner Rigby
- B. Motion Seconded: Commissioner Mahler
- C. Vote: Motion passes unanimously

**III. Explanation of Administrative Hearing Guidelines**

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

**IV. Case #2202-06 Sales v. Brookstone Homes LLC.**

- A. Complainant was invited to the podium and presented her case to the Commission.
- B. Recess.
- C. Complainant continued testifying. Complainant answered various questions from Commission members in regards to her residency. Complainant's witness testified as to her observations.

- D. Chair Fulco then asked Respondents' representative to present any evidence to support Complainant's rent increase.
- E. Parties presented their respective closing statements.
- F. Vice Chair makes a motion that the first six months that rent be at \$1250, followed by an additional hundred dollars to \$1350 for the second six months. Motion not seconded.
- F. Chair Fulco motions to make a finding that rental charge is excessive, and to increase the rent to \$1330 per month effective June 1, 2022 for a period of six (6) months and increase to \$1450 per month thereafter, with a stipulation that the parties enter into a lease. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ortiz. Motion passes unanimously. Town Corporate Counsel discussed with Commission that requiring the parties enter into a lease is outside of the scope of the Commission. Commission reconsiders motion that will meet the scope of the Commission.
- G. Commissioner Berklas made a motion to increase rent to \$1650 effective June 1, 2022. Motion seconded by Commissioner Mahler. Motion failed by a vote of 3 to 2.
- H. Commissioner Ortiz made a motion to increase rent to \$1250 a month effective June 1, 2022 for six (6) months, and increase the rent to \$1350 per month thereafter, and to make referral to the West Hartford Bloomfield Public Health Department. Commissioner Rigby seconded. Motion passes with a vote of 3 to 2.

## **V. Adjournment**

- A. Motion to Adjourn made by Commissioner Mahler
- B. Motion Seconded by Chair Fulco
- C. Unanimous
- D. Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm