



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Thursday, October 11, 2018

5:00 PM

2313 Allied Dr
Madison WI 53711
Community Room

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 5:15, Corinda Rainey-Moore presiding.

Present: 8 - Corinda Rainey-Moore, Alder Rebecca Kemble, Sheray Wallace, Richelle Andrae, Charles McDowell, and Melanie Ramey. Zach Madden appeared by phone.

Not Present: 4 - Danielle Dieringer, Caitlin Badsing, Dion Jones, and Arlette Kambwa-Gitau

Staff Present: Byron Bishop and Britni Sutton

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the August 9, 2018 minutes was made by Ramey, seconded by McDowell. Passed by voice vote.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Al R Muhaymin, a resident of the Allied Drive Neighborhood, spoke on the numerous issues impacting housing in the area. He shared his experience in dealing with the owner and property managers and their lack of action to remedy continuing problems with infestations of bed bugs and roaches. There is also concern about many tenants being evicted as retaliation because they are reporting these problems to city authorities and attempting to improve their living conditions.

Donna Vernig, a resident of the Allied Drive Neighborhood, spoke on behalf of herself and her daughter, Anna Myers, about the living conditions they have had to endure while residing in the area. An infestation of bed bugs and roaches have plagued their apartment complex and Donna had reached out to city authorities to find a remedy for the situation. She received a 28 day notice of eviction after she took this action. The reasoning for eviction that was provided to her was that the manager did not believe she would be happy residing there any longer.

Alice Howard, a resident at 2318 Allied Drive for 19 years, spoke on the continuing issue of bed bugs and roaches throughout the apartments. The

management company has not been effective in treating the problem.

Jennifer Carter, the property manager at Revival Ridge Apartments since 2009, spoke to her experience in being able to see the bed bugs crawling on mattresses that had been moved outside the building. Jennifer has attempted to be an advocate for many tenants that have moved into the area and has seen new residents move in to an apartment that had not been cleaned and did not have a functioning oven or any shelves within the oven. That tenant was threatened with nonrenewal due to making complaints against the living conditions. The same tenant was impacted by a unusable toilet for over a week while residing in the apartment and then faced retaliatory action for reporting the problem to authorities. Jennifer recognizes that the property owner is using the least expensive option and doing the minimum required action to satisfy Building Inspection.

Tariq Saqqaf, a staff member of the Neighborhood Resource Team, reiterated the deplorable living conditions of the tenants of Quest Real Estate. He spoke on the continuing and growing fear of retaliation if the tenants attempt to remedy their situation or file a complaint of any kind. He is hoping for the Equal Opportunities Commission to help create a more proactive actions to protect the tenants and their fundamental right to housing.

MEETING DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. SUBSTITUTE - Establishing a moratorium on issuance of new alcohol licenses in a high density, high police call area in downtown Madison and establishing a Task Force on Downtown violence.

The Common Council has not yet made a decision on this item. Alder Kemble moved to refer this item until Gloria Reyes can attend a meeting and speak. Madden seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.
2. Acknowledging the City of Madison inter-disciplinary staff team tasked with analyzing alcohol outlet density, to identify issues related to excessive alcohol consumption that result in disproportionate calls for service, and propose steps to address such problems.

The Equal Opportunities Commission is waiting on data, including the demographics of people causing the problems and the demographics of the establishments that have the complaints. McDowell calls for a written request to be made for this information. Ramey moved to postpone this item until further information is provided. McDowell seconded the motion. Motion passes by voice vote.
3. EOC Appeals Committee

No updates
4. Discussion on Presentation by Dr. Revel Sims

Andrae poses the question of what will the Commission do with the information provided by the presentation. Alder Kemble suggests the conversation with the Mayor's office needs to focus on the process and consequences of evictions. It's recommended to us the Affordable Housing

Trust Fund to help people stay in their current neighborhoods and update existing buildings. Rainey-Moore acknowledges that state law has restricted the abilities of inspectors to advocate for tenants. McDowell expresses the concern about the retaliation for filing a complaint and the limitations of the Equal Opportunities Division's process because of the length of time it takes. Rainey-Moore puts the focus on working on the Housing Sub-Committees and encourages the teams to search for resolutions as it relates to those categories. There is consensus that the topic of housing should remain on all future agendas.

Quorum is ended. No further topics are discussed.

5. EOD Manager Report
6. Work Groups Updates: CDA Work Group; Housing Stock Work Group; MPD & Convictions Work Group
7. Impact to Communities due to ICE Presence

FUTURE TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

ADJOURNMENT

Rainey-Moore calls the meeting to an end at 6:12 due to lack of quorum.