

Howard County Consumer Protection Advisory Board Meeting Minutes September 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

- Present: Marshall McLeod, Ronnie Sanderson, Richard Green, Robyn Scates, Sandra Price
- Guests: and Ellen Kuhn

Welcome – Ellen Kuhn’s appointment will be heard by the County Council at its September 17 meeting and the Council will vote on her appointment on October 1.

Minutes of the August were approved as read. Becky distributed the results of OCP’s customer satisfaction survey for FY2018 and an updated Board roster.

County Landlord-Tenant Legislation

The County’s new landlord-tenant law went into effect on August 12. The provisions that require and prohibit certain lease terms, however, will not go into effect until December 12. A letter was sent to all licensed landlords informing them of the law and how to obtain more information (OCP’s website). OCP received a number of calls from landlords during the following week that were easily handled by OCP staff. DILP will provide a similar letter to new rental housing applicants, along with the landlord-tenant assistance publication.

DCRS Open House

Board members were provided with invitations to the DCRS open house to be held on September 20. A video is being released at the event that includes interview with Sandra and Young. The video will also be used to promote the department at other events and on social media.

Student Loan Forum

Becky advised the Board that she has been meeting with partners in DCRS and the Howard County School System to “reimagine” this event. While the event provides important information, the attendance at the event during the last 3 years has not grown beyond 125. Becky plans to meet soon with both HCC and HCPSS to discuss having a November “introduction” meeting followed by 5 workshops in January and February. The first four workshops will be held at different high schools (possibly: Wilde Lake, Long Reach, Oakland Mills, and Hammond) and will each will cover a different topic – FASFA process, federal and private loans, finding scholarships and how budget for expenses beyond tuition. The fifth session would be offered to a limited number of participants who want “hands-on” assistance in completing the FASFA application. The board members expressed support for pursuing this approach.

Announcements and new business:

- Korean Festival – September 15 at the Howard County Fair Grounds
- 50+ Expo – October 19 at Wilde Lake High School
- Getting Ahead Fall Festival – October 27 at the East Columbia Library

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41.

The next meeting of the Consumer Protection Advisory Board will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, October 3 at the DCRS office.