



**Howard County Office of Consumer Protection
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Richard Weisenhoff, Board Vice-Chairperson.

Present:

Sandra Price - Board Chairperson
Richard Weisenhoff - Board Vice-Chairperson
Patricia Branch - Board Member
Jerome Rollerson - Board Member
Rosa Maymi - Board Member
Tracy Rezvani - Administrator, Office of Consumer Protection
Lila Boor - Investigator, Office of Consumer Protection

Absent:

Young Smith - Board Member

Business Discussed:

Tracy Rezvani gave updates from the Office of Consumer Protection:

- Working on improving how the Office does things to create better processes. Making changes to the current consultation form by collecting information differently. Improving current data base processes.
- Planning 2 present webinars for the Money Matters event during April, Financial Literacy Month. One on Home Improvements, and one on Scams to be done in Korean.
- Working with the 50-Plus Centers do two presentations, one in May, and one in June.

- The Office will participate in an in-person event to be hosted by the Department of Aging and Independence during “Protect Week” in June.
- Working on having IT office generate statistic reports monthly instead of quarterly.

Patricia Branch Gave the Legislative Update:

- The Senate passed the “Eviction Special Funds” bill. Hearings were held on bills for co-op housing organization dispute settlement, motor vehicle insurance, and on-line marketplace disclosures. She will send a report out to the Board. Tracy Rezvani told the Board that they should tell her if they think there is a bill the office should stand behind.
- Tracy Rezvani informed the Board that Legal Aid is providing legal assistance twice a week at District Court. She explained that the District Court Self Help Center gives advice on how to proceed in court and is available in many languages.

Board Training Opportunities:

- Sandra Price said that Tracy Rezvani sent out some options to the Board. One on The “Opening Meetings Act,” and one on how to conduct meetings. She also found a training from MACCO on how to monitor the General Assembly. Patricia Branch said that she is interested in this. Tracy Rezvani told the Board to think about what future work they want to do, and what training they can take. Sandra Price said that she has taken the “Open Meeting Act” training. Richard Weisenhoff said that he started this training, but hasn’t completed it. Rosa Maymi asked Tracy Rezvani why it’s important to take these trainings. Tracy Rezvani said that the training on how Boards work may be helpful. Richard Weisenhoff said that he has looked for training on how the Board can do a better job for Howard County, but hasn’t found any. Sandra Price said that she is also interested in trainings more specific to Howard County.
- Tracy Rezvani stated that she could design a training program, or the Board can decide on their own. Jerome Rollerson and Patricia Branch said they want to postpone their decision until the next meeting. Richard Weisenhoff wants to put this on the agenda for next month’s meeting. Tracy Rezvani suggested that Board members sit in on other Boards and committee meetings within DCRS, Montgomery County, or other jurisdictions to see how they operate. Lila Boor suggested the Veterans Affairs Board is a good one because it is very well run. Sandra Price said that she will sit in on their next meeting. Tracy Rezvani also suggested the Office on Aging and Independence’s Age Friendly meetings. Richard Weisenhoff asked Tracy Rezvani if she can provide the Board with a list of DCRS Boards so they can divide up meetings to attend.
- Tracy Rezvani asked if any members had a graphic background to create graphics for videos. There were no positive responses. Tracy said that she can design a

background to use for videos. Tracy Rezvani suggested that the Board create a sub-committee for trainings to come up with game plan to present at the next meeting. She asked for two volunteers. Sandra Price and Jerome Rollerson volunteered.

National Consumer Protection Week:

- Tracy Rezvani told the Board that she has sent the content they provided to the DCRS Communications Teams for graphics, and Constant Contact will go out tomorrow. She also said the WebEx link will be sent out to those who have registered for the two webinars she is presenting next week, and that they can be viewed on Facebook live. Richard Weisenhoff will be hosting the one on Tuesday, and Rosa Maymi will host the one on Thursday. Rosa Maymi and Richard Weisenhoff both said they will come up with questions to be asked of Tracy Rezvani during the webinars.
- Sandra Price stated that she will be presenting the Power Point that Lila Boor sent out earlier on the functions of the Office at her “Getting Ahead” groups. Tracy Rezvani discussed an article she read about private equity firms buying up homes to sell as investments, and that this will affect affordable housing.
- Tracy Rezvani asked the Board if they had any plans for the April meeting because the County Executive, Calvin Ball, will be attending. There were no responses. Sandra asked for a copy of the finalized Annual Report. Tracy Rezvani said that she will check with Jackie Scott to see if it has been sent to the Executive’s Office, and she will send it out to the Board. The board approved a motion made by Jerome Rollerson to present the report to Calvin Ball at the April 12, 2022 meeting.

Announcements:

- None
- The next Board meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

Adjourn:

- The meeting was adjourned by Board Vice-Chairperson Richard Weisenhoff at 8:00 PM.