



# SHAKER HEIGHTS

## Fair Housing Review Board

### Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2020

6:00 p.m.

### Remotely Held Meeting – Via Telephone Conference

Members Present: Council member Earl Williams, FHRB Chairperson  
Ann Millette, FHRB Member  
Sacara Miller, FHRB Member  
Meredith Turner, FHRB Member

Staff Present: William M. Ondrey Gruber, Director of Law/Fair Housing Admin.  
Lisa Gold-Scott, Assistant Dir. of Law/Housing Attorney

#### I. Preliminary Matters

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Williams at 6:05 pm. Mr. Gruber called the roll for attendance purposes, and a quorum was established. Procedures for the remote meeting were provided. The minutes for the February 6, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Millette moved to approve, and Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Gruber called the roll for the vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### II. Report On Fair Housing Program

- **Financial Report & Budget for 2020**

Mr. Gruber emailed the financial report to the Board members prior to the meeting. The budget had to be revised due to the contract with the Fair Housing Center for \$13,500, and an appropriation was required by Council. There are sufficient funds; but not all of the funds are budgeted initially; hence the need for the appropriation. Budget Actuals for 2020 were reviewed; little has been spent as contract activities have been halted due to the pandemic.

Ms. Miller moved to accept the financial report, and Ms. Millette seconded the motion. All voted to approve the financial report.

- **Complaint Status**

Ms. Gold-Scott reported that there are three open complaints:

1. Hill: allegation of discrimination based on sex – discriminatory terms, conditions and interference/intimidation in housing rights. The tenant vacated, and has legal counsel. As reported at the last meeting in February, there is litigation in this case. and the parties may attempt some kind of “global settlement” to resolve all of the issues between the parties.
2. Littlejohn: refusal to rent based on race and familial status. Testing results were inconclusive. The investigation will continue.
3. Morgan: This is also still under investigation. The complaint involves alleged discrimination based on race and disability. The complainants vacated the units. Additional documents are being collected for review.

Potential complaint: a woman has called our office regarding alleged fair housing violations involving her daughter, who has both physical and mental disabilities, and resides in a condominium unit owned by the mother’s brother. They are working with an attorney from Disability Rights of Columbus, and

he is weighing their options (file with our office, or perhaps file a lawsuit). The allegations include intimidation/interference, failure to accommodate and differing terms and conditions in the tenancy.

- **Education & Outreach**

Due to the pandemic, the April 9<sup>th</sup> fair housing seminar for condominiums had to be cancelled. We are working with staff of the Fair Housing Center to coordinate a Zoom training hopefully in the early fall.

Fair housing month:

1. A FH resolution was introduced by Chairman/Councilman Williams to City Council and passed
2. Staff arranged for a full page, fair housing ad in the Spring edition of Shaker Life
3. Staff was interviewed for a Shaker Life article, highlighting the work done by the City's fair housing office and services available
4. Ms. Gold-Scott was interviewed for the Hey Shaker! Podcast – the segment is about 25 minutes long, and covered all things related to fair housing.
5. On May 15, Ms. Gold-Scott participated in a townhall –style meeting, hosted by C-M Law School. The topic was how the pandemic has affected housing issues, and Ms. Gold-Scott was called upon during the event to speak about the impact on housing issues from a small suburb perspective. She also talked about the services of the fair housing offices.

Motion to accept Enforcement and Program update: Ms. Millete moved, and Ms. Miller seconded. The vote was unanimously approved.

### III. **New Business**

- Board members were also reminded that there is 1 vacancy to be filled, and any recommendations should be given to Mr. Gruber for consideration.
- Update on the fair housing contract - modifications in light of the pandemic: discussions are underway with the Fair Housing Center to re-tool their testing program, and to determine if testing is even viable given the current market conditions. Two of the three seminars will likely be done by zoom. The third event was to be a larger event and hopefully in person – but we do not have answers on this now.
- Note that no public comments were received during the meeting.

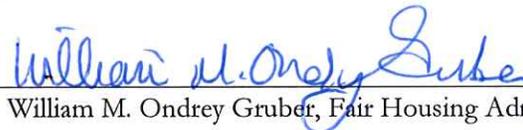
### IV. **Future Meetings**

Members discussed the next meeting date would tentatively be August 13, 2020 at 6pm. Staff will follow up with an email including details as to how the meeting will be conducted.

### V. **Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Ms. Turner moved to adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded by Ms. Millette and approved unanimously by all.

Submitted By:

  
William M. Ondrey Gruber, Fair Housing Administrator

FHRB/MINUTES/05-14-2020