

**CITY OF NORWALK
FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

- ATTENDANCE:** Rev. Jeffrey Ingraham; Chairman; Carol Frank; Nancy Burke; Barbara Hudgins; Lori Torrano (3:10 p.m.).
- STAFF:** Margaret Suib, Fair Housing Officer.
- OTHERS:** Tim Sheehan, Executive Director, Redevelopment Agency.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by the Chairman.

**FY2010-2011 GRANT BUDGET APPLICATION DISCUSSION WITH TIM
SHEEHAN, EXEC. DIR. NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

- ** MRS. FRANK MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES.**
- ** MS. BURKE SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 3:05 p.m. and reconvened into Public Session at 4 p.m. It was noted that Mrs. Torrano arrived at the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

- ** REV. INGRAHAM MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF MR. SHEEHAN TO APPROVE A 2.5% INCREASE IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET, NOTING THAT THIS IS NOT A SALARY INCREASE BUT FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES, FOR A TOTAL OF \$121,789.**
- ** MRS. TORRANO SECONDED.**

Ms. Suib said her concerns are:

1. If they are funded at that level, it is only enough to cover part of the year. The City, by virtue of the court decree, has an obligation to fund this.
2. She is uncomfortable that she cannot explain that number to the grant review agency; she would have to defer all discussion to Mr. Sheehan.

The Chairman said that Mr. Sheehan had said Ms. Suib would not be deprived of anything that the other grant agencies were receiving. Ms. Suib said that this office should be treated similarly to the City. She wants to be a full time fair housing officer for 52 weeks a year. Mrs. Torrano said if the City is asking if the work volume warrants the

money that is being done everywhere. Ms. Suib said that the court order is for a full time job. Mrs. Torrano stressed that this is happening everywhere in the corporate world and is now starting to happen in the public sector. Ms. Burke noted the great amount of time it is taking her to work on two cases. Ms. Suib said she brought forward more cases last year than HUD.

Discussion took place on the fact that some people may have to accept working for more than one job.

Mrs. Frank said if they come in at 2.5%, Mr. Sheehan will not have to defend anything. If Ms. Suib wants it to be more, she would have to appear before the budget committees.

Ms. Suib pointed out that this Commission would have to go to bat before CDBG for 18 weeks of funding. She said if they are going to approach it this way, it is because of the economy and because they are aware of how independent they are on CDBG,

It was noted that \$122,000 would cover 34 weeks.

The Chairman said because this office is court mandated, everything should work out.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH THREE VOTES IN FAVOR (CHAIRMAN, HUDGINS, TORRANO) AND TWO ABSTENTIONS (BURKE, FRANK).**

**** MRS. TORRANO MOVED TO TABLE THE FOLLOWING:**

- **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 19, 2009 MINUTES**
- **FHO'S MONTHLY REPORT**
- **OLD BUSINESS – COMMISSION'S ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE FHO**
- **NEW BUSINESS**

**** MRS. FRANK SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15th, at 3 p.m.

**** MRS. FRANK MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MRS. TORRANO SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco
Telesco Secretarial Services

DRAFT