

**CONSUMER PROTECTION BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 20, 2020**

PRESENT: Abel, Keith (Teams)
Aronofsky, Jill (telephonically)
Clark, Lawrence "Larry" (Teams)
Daley, Herbert (Teams)
Giraldo, Omar (Teams)
Goldfarb, Jennifer (Teams)
Holness, Jephtha "Jeff" (Teams)
Lerner, Beth (telephonically)
Morguess, Joseph (Teams)
Rubalcaba, Jenny (Teams)
Schnitzius, Kimberly (Teams)

ABSENT: Michael Flynn
Zucker, Ann

ALSO PRESENT: Joseph O'Geen – ECPD Senior Program/Project Coordinator
W. Gail Custode – ECPD Senior Program/Project Coordinator
Javier Navas – Assistant County Attorney
Carlos Cabieses – Board Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Joseph Morguess, Vice Chair. The Roll Call was conducted, and quorum was established.

Vice Chair made mention the appointment of Ms. Jennifer Goldfarb; Ms. Jenny Rubalcaba; Mr. Keith Abel; and Mr. Herbert Daley as new members to the Consumer Protection Board. Vice Chair welcomed the new members.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/DIVISION'S REPORT:

A. Quarterly Reports

ECPD Senior Program/Project Coordinator, Joseph O'Geen, began by informing the Board that the Division was able to return almost \$25,000 over the last 2 quarters to complainants. He also added that there was an influx of Vehicle For Hire permit revocation and suspension due to insurance issues such as fraudulent insurance presented to the Division. Reports from the 1st Quarter FY 2020 (October – December 2019) and 2nd Quarter FY 2020 (January – March 2020) of the Broward County Consumer Protection Program were distributed among members.

In closing, Mr. O'Geen also welcomed the newly appointed members to the Board and reminded everyone that the Division is still in need of 5 new members.

Question and answer session followed.

B. Modification of Hearing Proceedings and County handling of Coronavirus

ECPD Senior Program/Project Coordinator, Ms. W. Gail Custode, informed the Board that the Government Center West is working very hard to keep the public, staff, hearing officers, and board members safe during the current pandemic and during reopening. She then mentioned that the Division will be implementing a new configuration of the hearing room to allow social distancing during hearings and meetings.

Ms. W. Gail Custode screen shared via Teams with the Board a sketch of the proposed reconfiguration of the hearing room.

She then mentioned that the following changes will be take in place:

- That the hearing room sits up to 75 people and the new proposal will consist of 15 or 20 people and possibly less;
- That the table from the TV wall will be moved to the back wall to allow large Boards to sit and participate within 6 feet distance among each other;
- That 2 additional rooms will be used in order to transmit the hearing live via Teams in case there is an overflow or additional respondents;
- That there will be plexiglass table dividers;
- That there will be disposable pens;
- That hand sanitizer will be available for everyone;
- That cushion chairs will be replaced to plastic chairs;
- That there will be disinfecting and cleaning between cases, respondents; and hearings;
- That masks will be required for everyone during the building.

Ms. W. Gail Custode also added that the Division will resume hearings in June with small dockets.

There were questions and answers session following Ms. W. Gail Custode's presentation, particularly concerning taking precaution of coronavirus. Lengthy discussion was had.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

There was nothing to report from Assistant County Attorney Javier Navas.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

BOARD MEMBERS' CONCERN: Same as above.

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS:

Michael Flynn and Joseph Morguess were nominated for CPB Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, with all present in favor.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Cabieses
Board Clerk