

**Rent Stabilization Commission  
City of West Hollywood  
Thursday, April 23, 2015 @ 7:00 PM  
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers  
625 North San Vicente Boulevard**

**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Topchian called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Topchian led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Commission Secretary Laura Schoonover took roll call.

**PRESENT:**

Chair Agassi Topchian, Vice Chair Sanes, Commissioner Josh Kurpies, Commissioner Richard Maggio and Commissioner Stephanie Harker.

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization Elizabeth Savage, Legal Counsel to the Commission Alison Regan, and Commission Secretary Laura Schoonover.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Kurpies and seconded by Vice Chair Sanes to approve the agenda for the April 23, 2015 meeting. The motion was approved (5-0-0).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Kurpies and seconded by Commissioner Harker to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015 meeting. The motion was approved (4-0-1) with Vice Chair Sanes abstaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Cathy Blaivas of West Hollywood congratulated Commissioner Harker on her appointment to the Rent Stabilization Commission.

Michael Wojtkielewicz of West Hollywood spoke to the Commission about persons that reside in Affordable Housing and their limited rights under the Rent Stabilization Ordinance. He also spoke regarding management services under The John Stewart Company.

## **DIRECTOR'S/MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization Elizabeth Savage reviewed the Director's/ Manager's Look Ahead Calendar and spoke about the May 14<sup>th</sup> celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance. She also announced that the community meeting regarding the Aging in Place strategic plan will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Chair Topchian announced that the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Russian Cultural Week will start on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and he reviewed the dates and times of the various events that will take place.

Commissioner Maggio spoke in regards to the Annual Russian Cultural Week and encouraged the public to attend.

Commissioner Kurpies commented on the public comment made by Mr. Wojtkielewicz and encouraged him to contact the West Hollywood Sheriff department if he was ever in a situation where he did not feel safe. He also announced that Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Healthy West Hollywood Kids Fair would be taking place and encouraged the public to attend.

Commissioner Harker thanked the public speakers for their participation in tonight's meeting and encouraged public participation in the various board and commission meetings. She spoke in particular about her recent experience at the Disability Advisory Board meeting.

## **APPEALS:**

**A. D-3961**

**1040 N. Laurel Ave. #5  
(MAR)**

Legal Counsel to the Commission Alison Regan provided a case summary and analysis of the appeal as provided in the staff report.

Landlord representative Rachel Novak was in attendance and spoke to the Commission regarding the appeal.

Tenant Juan Carlos Luevanos was in attendance and spoke to the Commission regarding the appeal.

After a public discussion among the Commissioners regarding the appeal, a motion was made by Commissioner Maggio to adopt Resolution 15-467, to affirm the hearing examiner's decision. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Sanes. The motion passed (5-0-0).

## COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Maggio made a recommendation to the Commission that each Commissioner may want to attend a hearing to witness the process.

Commissioner Harker concurred with Commissioner Maggio's recommendation. She also asked staff about the outreach efforts that are done by the City to encourage and remind landlords about their obligation to file re-registration forms.

Chair Topchian commented on a landlord's responsibility to comply with the Rent Stabilization Ordinance in regards to re-registrations. He also commented on an earlier statement made by Commissioner Kurpies during the public discussion portion of the appeal.

Commissioner Harker also commented on the statement made by Commissioner Kurpies and spoke regarding re-registrations.

Vice Chair Sanes responded to Commissioner Harker's comments and a brief discussion occurred amongst the Commissioners regarding re-registrations and the role of the Commission in the appeal process.

## ADJOURNMENT:


The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m in memory of Frank Sanes, Jr. The next regular meeting of the Rent Stabilization Commission will be held on May 14, 2015 in the West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers.

These minutes were taken and submitted by Laura Schoonover, Commission Secretary.  
Adopted this 14th day of May, 2015.

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.  
*(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the recordings are not of commercial quality.)*

ATTEST:

  
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Agassi Topchian, Chair

  
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Laura Schoonover, Secretary