



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
RENTAL HOUSING MEDIATION BOARD

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
 NOVEMBER 12, 2015
 5:30PM
 DAVID GEBHARD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM
 630 GARDEN STREET
 SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

RICHARD AXILROD	<u> X </u>	RENE GOMEZ	<u> E </u>
LEESA BECK	<u> X </u>	LYNN GOEBEL	<u> X </u>
DAVID BRAINARD	<u> X </u>	DAN HERLINGER	<u> X </u>
ROBERT BURKE	<u> X </u>	DAVID MCDERMOTT	<u> X </u>
CHRIS CASEBEER	<u> X </u>	BRIAN SO	<u> X </u>
SILVIO DILORETO	<u> X </u>	SCOTT WEXLER	<u> X </u>
JEANA DRESSEL	<u> X </u>	BRUCE WOLLENBERG	<u> E </u>
JUSTIN DULLUM	<u> E </u>		

(X = Present A =Absent E = Excused)

Officers: Chair Lynn Goebel, Dan Herlinger, Secretary Scott Wexler
 Staff Present: Andrea Bifano, Sr. Rental Housing Mediation Specialist,
 Joel Estrada, Rental Housing Mediation Specialist

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: To approve the minutes of the September 10, 2015, Regular Meeting.

Action: McDermott/Axilrod, 12/0/0. (Dullum, Gomez, and Wollenberg excused). Motion carried.

4. ANNUAL RECRUITMENT FOR CITY COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUPS:

A. Mediator terms scheduled to expire:

Chair Lynn Goebel, (Tenant) reapplied; Silvio Di Loreto (Landlord) did not reapply, but will stay on until a successor is appointed; David McDermott, (Homeowner) did not reapply; David Brainard (Tenant) reapplied.

B. Interviews by the City Council:

- o Final date, Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

C. Tentative Appointments: Tuesday, December 8, 2015.

5. OFFICER ELECTIONS:

Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary to be held on December 10, 2015.

Group discussion.

6. OUTREACH:

Update

The Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara held a Landlord meeting/outreach on October 22, 2015. Netza Ortiz, Rental Housing Mediation Specialist, represented the Rental Housing Mediation Program (RHMP) at the meeting. It was held at the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara's newly acquired property at Grace Lutheran Church, 3869 State Street. Approximately 120 Landlords attended.

7. ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE:

Discussion Item - Robert Burke

Robert Burke expressed his desire to create an Advocacy Committee, a permanent subcommittee of three members, who would be charged with educating the community about the Rental Housing Mediation Board (RHMB) and RHMP. Mr. Burke stated in the future he would like to see outreach expand statewide so other communities could learn how the RHMP became part of the City of Santa Barbara's general fund budget.

Group discussion and comments followed. Robert Burke was encouraged to bring the item once again to the Agenda for further discussion at the next Board meeting.

8. PROGRAM STAFFING:

A. Two part-time hourly staff leaving on November 24, 2015;

Netza Ortiz, Rental Housing Mediation Specialist, and Marcos Gonzales, Rental Housing Mediation Aide III, worked for 7 and 3 years respectively in the RHMP office. Both resigned from their positions effective November 24, 2015, as they would soon be graduating the Santa Barbara College of Law in December 2015 and needed to give complete attention to studying for the California State Bar exam.

B. Job Announcement for second full-time position:

- Rental Housing Mediation Specialist.

A full-time position with the RHMP was advertised as a Promotional Opportunity for City employees only. The job announcement is scheduled to close on November 11, 2015.

9. CASELOAD REPORT AND MEDIATOR TRAINING:

A. Statistical First Quarter Report FY 2015 - 2016;

A PowerPoint of the First Quarter Statistical Report was emailed to the mediators in advance of the Board meeting. Questions were answered by staff.

B. Mediator Training (per Dispute Resolutions Programs Act);

- **Case discussion**

Robert Burke and David McDermott conducted a mediation. The parties included the Landlord, Tenant and Tenant's Attorney. The outcome was successful. Mediators Robert Burke and McDermott discussed the skills used to achieve the successful outcome.

- **Mediator Certificates**

Lynn Goebel, Chair shared that mediator certificates verifying training would be distributed at the December 10, 2015 RHMB meeting.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Celebration of Silvio Di Loreto's (Founding Member) 40 Years of Service to the Rental Housing Mediation Program (RHMP) and Holiday Party to be held at the December 10, 2015 RHMB Meeting.

The Chair shared that another City Board that televises its meeting, would need to use the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room on December 10th. As a result, the Board agreed to hold the December 10th meeting at the City's Water Resources Conference Room located at 617 Garden Street.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm