

Advisory Committee on Consumer Protection

Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.

Virtual

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Phillip Robinson, Ingmar Goldson, Savitri Taneja, Harriet Kamendi, Timothy Robinson

OCP STAFF PRESENT:

Patty Vitale, Maurice Valentine, Brittany Freeman

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Timothy Robinson. Savitri Taneja moved to adopt the agenda. Ingmar Goldson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes. Timothy Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes. Savitri Taneja seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussed inviting Delegates to the March meeting to provide the Committee with updates on consumer protection. Philip Robinson is to create email drafts for next month's meeting, and Brittany Freeman will send them to the contacts.
- Brittany Freeman gave an update on the program on Medical Debt with Delegate Lorig Charkoudian and Marceline White. This is to be scheduled after session is over in early April. Brittany will work to coordinate this date.
- The Committee voted to hold the May meeting in person.

NEW BUSINESS

- Phillip Robinson gave an update on legislation. This included 2 pending bills, the first, regarding towing, and the second, to establish a 3-year statute of limitation for violations of local consumer protection laws. Patty Vitale informed the Committee that OCP is watching both bills.
- Brittany Freeman gave an update on the Committee vacancies. Ira Rheingold, Timothy Robinson, and Brittany Freeman conducted interviews on February 8th and recommendations have been sent in for County Executive review and approval.
- Brittany Freeman discussed working with Riderwood TV Club on future programs. For programs, there is potential to partner with a group or committee at Riderwood to do a speaking engagement or educational video. The Committee will keep this in mind for future outreach.

OFFICE REPORT

- Patty Vitale provided an OCP office update:
 - OCP is looking to hire a new Investigator with a focus on new home construction, as well as bringing on 2 summer interns.

- OCP submitted a change to the County towing regulations to increase the fees that towers can charge. An OCP Investigator did an evaluation on this. The Council has set it for a hearing.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT OR DATES OF IMPORTANCE

- Discussed Nation Consumer Protection Week (March 3 – 9, 2024)
- Discussed Slam the Scam Day on March 7, 2024.
- Maurice Valentine updated Committee members about the speaker request form on OCP's website.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 – Virtual.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m. by Timothy Robinson.