

# **BURLINGTON HOUSING BOARD OF REVIEW**

**Monday, December 5, 2022**

**7:00 p.m.**

The meeting will be REMOTE ONLY. You can join the meeting via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/91780521708>

## **Minutes**

Board Members Present: Betsy McGavisk, Evan Litwin, Olivia Taylor, Josh Wronski

Staff present: Lisa Jones

1. Presentation by William Ward, Director of Permitting and Inspections, Potential Changes to Chapter 18  
Present were Bill Ward and Patti Wehman from DPI.  
Bill Ward presented his proposal for changes to Chapter 18 that would allow DPI to refer minimum housing cases to the Board in instances where a landlord has not complied with an order after a second reinspection of the property. While there are legitimate reasons for a landlord needing an extension, DPI is finding that a few landlords are just dragging their feet about making repairs that have been cited. That means that a tenant may be waiting months for a repair. DPI is looking for a better process to address those cases – how can we get compliance without the involvement of criminal court? DPI has the option of ticketing property owners for violations or to bring a case to court. DPI's goal is to get compliance and looking for a better tool to do that. Bill Ward researched what Orlando, FL is doing; that is, referring cases to a local board as a way to get compliance. Orlando finds that many landlords come into compliance when a case is referred. Bill Ward emphasized again that a referral would be for unique situations; most property owners comply on the first reinspection date or they request an extension. He estimated that 1-2 cases per month would go to the Board – referrals would not involve life safety issues. Patti Wehman said that DPI is just looking for a new tool to gain compliance.  
Betsy McGavisk asked what would the orders look like – options to either extend deadline or deny?  
Bill Ward responded that like other code cases before the Board, the Board would either find in favor of the property owner or the inspector.  
Betsy McGavisk also asked whether Bill Ward had talked to City Council yet?  
Bill Ward stated the Council is generally supportive of the idea; they were interested in feedback from the Board.  
Betsy McGavisk asked Lisa Jones her thoughts on the potential additional caseload.  
Lisa Jones said it sounded as though the additional caseload would not be a lot. However, she asked the Board to keep in mind what impact additional cases would have in the Board's busy months for tenants waiting for a hearing in security deposit disputes.  
Betsy McGavisk stated she would want to make sure to look at different scenarios and see what is changing in the ordinance. She also asked what the next steps are.  
Bill Ward stated DPI would draft the actual changes to the ordinance, the changes would go to City Council, then the ordinance committee and then back to the Council.  
The Board expressed their general support for the idea.
2. Mae Quilty (tenant); Melissa Rubinchuck Parr (landlord) (security deposit case) re: 21 Ledge Road, Apt. B  
  
This case was settled by the parties prior to the hearing.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:02pm.

Board went into executive session.