

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT
P.O. BOX 668
STRATFORD, CT 06615**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING / PUBLIC HEARING
HELD ON OCTOBER 11, 2022**

The Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford, Connecticut, met at a special meeting / public hearing of the Authority via zoom, on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. Chairman Joseph Crudo, Jr. presided.

ROLL CALL

ITEM #1

In Attendance:

Chairman Joseph Crudo, Jr.
Commissioner Beth Daponte
Commissioner Sonja Devitt

Also in Attendance:

Elizabeth Sulik, Executive Director
Lucia Smith, Finance Director
Paul Hoydick, Director of Maintenance
Attorney John Florek

Absent:

Vice-Chairman George Grom
Commissioner Janet Findlay
Lisa Mastro, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC HEARING – SHA 2023 ANNUAL PLAN / CAPITAL FUND PROGRAM

ITEM #2

No one from the public dialed into the meeting.

Elizabeth Sulik explained that this is our annual submission to HUD which contains our Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP), our Section 8 Administrative Plan (Admin Plan), our Capital Fund Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report, and other required forms and certifications. For 2023, we are proposing several changes to the ACOP and Rules and Regulations, which changes were summarized and emailed to the board on September 30th. Liz summarized the proposed changes to both documents and answered any questions.

Commissioner Daponte asked if the Authority had a limit on the number of pets that can be in a household. Liz responded that tenants could have one pet, but can have one additional pet as a visitor as long as it is for no longer than 7 days. Commissioner Daponte questioned if our language should be more explicit on the number of pets allowed at any one time. She stated that her concern is the number of accidents involving humans being attacked by animals, many resulting in a fatality. Commissioner Devitt suggested changing the language in #23 of the Rules and Regulations from “*Visiting pets* that meet the size and type criteria outlined in the Pet Policy...” to “*A visiting pet* that meets the size and type criteria outlined in the Pet Policy...” Liz stated that we would make this language change.

Resolution # 19 - 2022

SHA 2023 ANNUAL PLAN / CAPITAL FUND PROGRAM

RESOLVED: That the SHA 2023 Annual Plan, with proposed changes, form HUD-50075-HP, and Capital Fund Program, be approved.

The Chairman is authorized to execute **Form HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP - PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plans and Related Regulations (Standard, Troubled, HCV-Only, and High Performer PHAs)** and **Form HUD-50077-CR - Civil Rights Certification (Qualified PHAs)**.

MOTION: Beth Daponte

VOTE: 3-0

SECOND: Sonja Devitt

POLICY REGARDING OPEN CARRYING OF WEAPONS ON AUTHORITY PROPERTY

ITEM #3

Attorney Florek stated that he researched this matter after the discussions that took place at the last meeting regarding the open carrying of weapons.

He explained that CT is an open carry state, which means there is no prohibition against carrying handguns openly. However, Section 29-28(c) states that the issuance of a permit does not authorize a person to be able to possess or carry a weapon on any premises where the possession or carrying of a weapon has been prohibited by the person owning the premise. HUD provides no guidance on handguns in the federal developments, but relies on public housing authorities to follow the state and local requirements for possession and carrying.

Attorney Florek emailed a draft policy to the board for their review prior to this meeting, and added that this proposed policy must be presented to our tenants for a 30-day comment period. Any comments received during this time period must be taken into consideration.

Proposed Policy Prohibiting Open Carry of Firearms

No resident or any member of a resident's household, or any guest of any resident, shall display or openly carry any firearm anywhere on the property of the Stratford Housing Authority. A firearm may be lawfully carried on Stratford Housing Authority property only by a person possessing a valid permit from the State and any other required legal authority and must be concealed from public view while being carried. When not being lawfully carried, firearms must be stored in a locked cabinet, and ammunition must be stored at a separate location from the firearm. Violation of this policy shall be grounds for termination of tenancy.

The provisions of this policy shall not apply to the carrying of a firearm by any police or peace officer of this or any other municipality, or the State of Connecticut, or by federal marshals or federal law enforcement agents while engaged in the pursuit of official duties.

Commissioner Daponte made a motion that the board favorably recommends this policy be provided to the public for a 30-day comment period. This will be Resolution #20-2022, proposed Policy Prohibiting Open Carry of Firearms. Motion seconded by Commissioner Devitt. Motion passed 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

ITEM #21

MOTION: Beth Daponte
SECOND: Sonja Devitt

VOTE: 3-0

Time: 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Elizabeth Sulik

Elizabeth Sulik
Executive Director / Secretary