

# Advisory Committee on Consumer Protection

## Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.

*Virtual*

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Ira Rheingold, Ingmar Goldson, Timothy Robinson  
Aemish Rao, Lesley MacDonald, Linda Perlman

### OCP STAFF PRESENT

Brittany Freeman, Maurice Valentine, Patty Vitale, Eric Friedman

### CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Ira Rheingold. Linda Perlman moved to adopt the agenda. Timothy Robinson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### APPROVAL OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes. Linda Perlman moved to approve the meeting minutes. Lesley MacDonald seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Delegate Lorig Charkoudian joined the meeting to provide a report and update on consumer issues. She went over key pieces of important legislation. This included:
  - SB1 – the bill that changes the way that retail suppliers' energy is sold and regulated in the state. She encouraged the committee to work with groups including the Office of Peoples Council, AARP, and Low-Income Energy Advocates.
  - Medical debt – Delegate Lopez's bill that passed prevents hospitals from establishing an asset test in making financial assistance available.
  - HB567 regarding online data privacy.
  - Other topics included ticket buying experience, wage garnishment, renters and tenants' rights.
- Eric Friedman gave an introduction about OCP and the committees role of advising the office. He informed the committee of things they can do to assist the office.
- Brittany Freeman let the committee know that descriptions have been drafted for each subcommittee and she will be reaching out to schedule monthly subcommittee check-in meetings at the beginning of the month.

### OFFICE REPORT

Brittany Freeman discussed the office report and noted that it would be sent out to committee members. She reported that the OCP received the most cases for home improvement, retail, and towing in the month of March.

### OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT AND DATES OF IMPORTANCE

OCP is recording the program on medical debt with Delegate Charkoudian and Marceline White on 4/23 and should be released sometime in May.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 8:30 a.m. – In person at OCP office or virtual. Brittany will be sending information on how to get to the OCP office for those joining in person.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m. by Ira Rheingold.