

Advisory Committee on Consumer Protection

Virtual Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ira Rheingold, Phillip Robinson, Aemish Rao, Linda Perlman, Savitri Taneja

OCP STAFF PRESENT

Brittany Freeman, Patty Vitale, Maurice Valentine

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Ira Rheingold. Phillip Robinson motioned to adopt the agenda. Savitri Taneja seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY MEETING MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved the meeting minutes. Linda Perlman motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Aemish Rao seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

- Report from subcommittees
 - Data Analysis
 - Phillip Robinson summarized data pulled by Aemish Rao from the CFPB complaint database. The subcommittee reviewed this online database as a first step to understand available information and guide their analysis. Aemish compiled all Maryland complaints from 2023 and filtered them by Montgomery County zip codes, showing various issue categories, products, and subproducts. Pivot tables compared CFPB complaints in Montgomery County to the rest of the state, providing insight into local issues.
 - Brittany Freeman is waiting to get access to the Sentinel so that she can pull more data for the subcommittee.
 - Educational Programming
 - The subcommittee generated a list of potential program ideas. They are also working to create materials for an event during Hispanic Heritage month.

OFFICE REPORT

Brittany Freeman shared that automotive and home improvement were the top categories for OCP new cases in the month of May.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT AND DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Brittany Freeman discussed upcoming dates that subcommittees could use for potential programming. She also mentioned OCP is launching their podcast in July. Brittany will also reach back out to Councilmember Mink's team to potentially join our July meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, July 23, 2024, 8:30 a.m. – virtual.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m. by Ira Rheingold.