

Advisory Committee on Consumer Protection

Virtual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 24th, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OCP STAFF PRESENT

Eric Friedman, Patty Vitale, Brittany Freeman, Maurice Valentine

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Ira Rheingold at 9:05 a.m. Timothy Robinson motioned to adopt the agenda. Lesley MacDonald seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

SPEAKER

Delegate Vaughn Stewart joined the meeting to discuss his current initiatives, as well as bills and priorities as they relate to consumer protection. He also discussed what he did last session and bill ideas for this upcoming session.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved the meeting minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

- Report from subcommittees:
 - **Data Analysis** – Aemish Rao gave a presentation on consumer protection data compiled data from CFPB and filtered the complaints to Montgomery County for 2023. Aemish demonstrated different ways to look at the various data points. The subcommittee is trying to look at other data sources and begin to focus on where the educational programming should be and what are the issues that residents are seeing in Montgomery County. Patty Vitale sent out a link to the committee of a CFBP speaker discussing how the public data base differs from the government database. Phillip Robinson recommended for the committee to dive into a specific category of this data for the committee’s annual report.
 - **Educational Programming** – Lesley MacDonald provided an update on the subcommittee, stating that the committee is keeping a watch out for consumer advisory complaints and news from different sources and will share those with Brittany Freeman to consider for communication purposes.

OFFICE REPORT

- Patty Vitale shared that OCP went to two conferences last week, the local consumer financial protection conference and the North American consumer protection investigator conference. Patty also mentioned that the committee members must turn in the County’s

Committee Evaluation and Review Board questionnaire by the end of October. Ira Rheingold stated that he will take this on and review it with the committee in the next meeting.

- The committee decided on the updated monthly meeting time of 9 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 9 a.m. – virtual.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m. by Ira Rheingold.