

Advisory Committee on Consumer Protection

Virtual Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

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. Linda Perlman motioned to adopt the agenda. The vote was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY MEETING MINUTES

The committee review and approved the meeting minutes. Linda Perlman motioned to approve the meeting minutes. The vote was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Report from subcommittees
 - Data analysis
 - Phillip Robinson informed the committee that the data analysis subcommittee is planning to look through data and put together an initial report by December. OCP is working to get IT assistance to access FTC data. Patty Vitale mentioned that we can look at the CFPB database in a meeting. Aemish Rao may be able to present 1 or 2 years of data at the next meeting.
 - Educational programing
 - Lesley MacDonald mentioned possibly putting together a consumer protection focused fact sheet and had found materials in English and Spanish. Lesley also discussed that she is working on a financial capability program for newcomers through a local elementary school. She is still working to finalize a date but would like for someone from OCP to come speak.
- Brittany Freeman will reach out to subcommittees to schedule check in meetings for September.

NEW BUSINESS

- Brittany gave an update on OCP's Consumer Connection podcast – the first episode was released in July and the second episode is planned to be released in the beginning of October.
- Ingmar Goldson reached out to Delegate Vaughn Stewart as a potential speaker for the August meeting. Ingmar will update the committee once he gets final confirmation.
- Councilmember Mink joined the meeting and discussed the following topics with the committee:
 - Impacts on the senior community in terms of consumer protection and scams.
 - Learning more about social media scams targeting seniors.
 - Committee's focus on outreach to senior community and also working to compile consumer protection complaint data and create a Montgomery County report.
 - Immigration scams.
 - OCP outreach and education to different community groups.
 - Ideas to be proactive partners.

OFFICE REPORT

- Patty gave an update that the Law school intern has finished his role at OCP and completed a research project for the registration unit.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DATES OF IMPORTANCE

- Brittany will be reaching out to committee members for required information and updated committee documents.
- Changing the meeting time to 9 a.m. was discussed. Brittany will reach out to the entire committee to make sure that time works for all.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 – virtual. **Time TBD.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m. by Ira Rheingold.