

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Social Services Commission

From: Ellen E. Bromley

Re: Status Report

Date: December 16, 2014

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Community Services Block Grant Application

Application submitted. Notification pending.

Introductory (or re-introductory) Meetings

Childcare Learning Centers – Marc Jaffe

Neighbors Link – Catalina Horak

Mutual Housing – Martey Rhine

Shelter for the Homeless – Raphael Pagan

Yerwood Center – multiple board members

Urban League – Valerie Schultz Wilson

Person-to-Person – Ceci Maher and Marina Thomas

Family Centers – Bob Arnold

Volunteer Center / United Way – Bridget Fox

New Covenant House – Paul Harinstein

Optimus – Lud Spinelli

The Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut – Michelle James

Charter Oak Communities – Vin Tufo, Jackie Figueroa

Boys and Girls Club – Mike Cotella (12/19)

Landlord/Tenant.

Many telephone inquiries about proposed rent increases. After the tenant describes his/her circumstances, I ask about unsafe or unhealthy living conditions. If there are none, but the tenant complains about other conditions of the unit, assuming nothing else about the situation indicates that he/she will be able to meet the statutory standard and sustain a claim that the proposed increase is "harsh and unconscionable, I might suggest that the tenant deal directly with the landlord to effectuate a compromise. I often offer to help him/her do so. Towards this end, I explain that the mandatory housing code inspection triggered by an unsettled excessive rent complaint often requires landlords to incur costs in making repairs to correct conditions that don't affect the quality of ordinary day-to-day life and are, in laymen's terms, benign. If this is the case, it might suit both parties' interests to effectuate their own compromise. Needless to say, if a caller (or complainant) reports unsafe or unhealthy conditions, I immediately refer the call to the Health Department for a housing code inspection.

Review two BMR settled cases – area median issue

Classic – luxury issue