

**Maryland Home Improvement Commission  
Public Business Meeting Minutes**

DATE: August 3, 2017

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: 500 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert A. Altieri  
Jeffrey Ross  
Michael Shilling  
Joseph Tunney, Chairman  
I. Jean White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sachchida Gupta  
Lawrence Helminiak  
William B. Quackenbush, Jr.  
Andrew Snyder

DLLR OFFICIALS AND  
STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Irvin-Cromwell, Assistant Executive Director  
David R. Finneran, Executive Director  
John D. Hart, Assistant Attorney General  
Kimberly Rosenthal, Administrative Officer  
Kimberly Smith Ward, Deputy Counsel Advice

**Call to Order**

Chair Joseph Tunney called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

**Introductions**

Mr. Finneran introduced Assistant Attorney General John D. Hart as the new advice and counsel for the MHIC. John Hart is a graduate of the University of the Maryland School of Law and has been with the Office of the Attorney General representing DLLR since September of 2012. During his time with the office he has litigated cases involving Unemployment Insurance, MOSH, Financial Regulation, DLLR Personnel actions, as well as, our own Guaranty Fund. Prior to working with the AG's office, John clerked in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. John is also a lifelong resident of Maryland, who currently resides in Towson but originally hails from Frederick County. Mr. Finneran also introduced Kimberly Smith Ward, Assistant

Attorney General, Deputy Counsel Advice. The Commissioners welcomed Mr. Hart. Mr. Hart said he is excited in his new role with MHIC.

**Approval of the June 1, 2017 Minutes**

The Minutes of the June 1, 2017, Commission meeting were approved.

**Guaranty Fund Activity Report**

The MHIC Guaranty Fund Activity Report dated July 18, 2017 is as follows:

Balance as of July 1, 2016	\$ 1,581,595.80
Receipts	\$ 1,423,579.11
Interest	-0-
Disbursements	
Claims	(\$751,743.88)
Refunds	(\$2,925.00)
Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$2,250,506.03</u>
FMIS Balance	\$2,250,506.03
Difference	\$0

Mr. Finneran informed the Commissioners the Guaranty Fund balance has a steady increase attributing to bond collections. Currently, contractors are paying \$100 to the Guaranty Fund every two years when applying for an original license and \$125 to the Guaranty Fund when renewing the license. Mr. Finneran is looking into possibly lowering that amount in the future. The Commissioners agreed to discuss this matter at a later date.

**Review of Exam Results**

Below is the examination statistics summary for the month of June 2017 and July 2017.

June 2017

Home Improvement	Candidates			
	Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass %
Contractor	127	87	40	69%
Contractor Spanish	70	37	33	53%
Salesperson	91	69	22	76%
Salesperson Spanish	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>67%</b>

July 2017

Contractor	121	78	43	64%
Contractor Spanish	59	23	36	39%
Salesperson	67	45	22	67%
Salesperson Spanish	1	1	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>59%</b>

Commissioner White inquired about the Sub-Contractors who were now out of business due to Maryland Senate Bill 285 eliminating the Subcontractor Licensing Category as of July 1, 2016. Mr. Finneran explained that if the Sub Contractor licensee was current at the time this Bill was enacted, he would waive the examination to become a Contractor if they apply by June 30, 2017. The Subcontractor applicant would still have to complete the Contractor's Original application.

**Update Licensing Supervisor Recruitment**

Mr. Finneran informed the Commissioners that the interviews for Licensing Supervisor have been completed and a new Supervisor will be chosen within a month.

**Comments from the Chairman**

Commissioner Tunney said that it is a pleasure to work with Mr. Finneran and Ms. Irvin-Cromwell, he is also looking forward to working with John D. Hart.

**Executive Director Comments**

Mr. Finneran informed the Commissioners that he and Ms. Irvin-Cromwell have been doing outreach about once a month. Mr. Finneran said that they mostly speak at various senior centers. In September, he will be speaking at the Baltimore City Council Bernard C. "Jack" Young's Senior Symposium where there are about 600 seniors. He will also be speaking to the NAACP in Howard County on September 30, 2017. Mr. Finneran has staffed a booth at the Maryland Builders Mart at Timonium Fairgrounds. Mr. Finneran speaks in front of NARI once a year. Commissioner White requested that Mr. Finneran speak to the Prince George's County Parks and Planning's senior center. Commissioner Tunney informed Mr. Finneran of the Senior Expo in Timonium that he may want to attend. Mr. Finneran will be looking into these various request and appreciates the Commissioner suggestions.

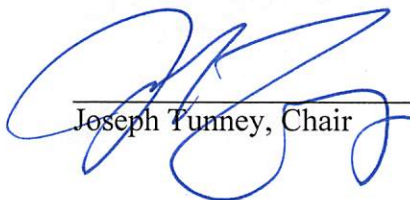
Mr. Finneran informed the Commissioners of the following Prorated Contractors who have multiple complaints.

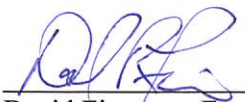
- James Martin t/a Prompt Restoration Inc, has 13 complaints and the license was suspended on June 16, 2016. The Commissioners voted and Commissioner Shilling made a motion and Commissioner Altieri second the motion to make the closing date to accept claims against this contractor and his business shall be December 16, 2017. All were in favor.
- Richard Stearns t/a Honest Exteriors has 16 complaints and the license was suspended on February 1, 2017.
- Ross Ehudin t/a G & E Contractors Inc. and Apple Remodeling & Home Improvements Inc. license was terminated on June 29, 2017. G & E Contractor's Inc, currently has over 10 complaints. Ross Ehudin has held a license since 1985.
- Robert Spero t/a Maryland Pools Inc., all complaints are not adjudicated.
- Minnie Bailey t/a Five Star Concrete Construction Inc., has 18 complaints and has been licensed since 2011 and the license was suspended on June 29, 2017.

Commissioner Tunney made a motion to table the discussion of a possible claim closing date for other Prorated Contractors until the next Commission Meeting. All were in favor.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Tunney, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Finneran, Executive Director