



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING ADMINISTRATION
Board of Appraisers

March 3, 2005

Ms. Virginia M. Gibbs, Chairperson
Appraisal Subcommittee
2000 K Street, NW Suite 310!
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Gibbs:

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to your letter of January 5, 2005, in which you expressed several concerns as result of the June 22-24, 2004 Appraisal Subcommittee (ASC) review of the District's appraiser regulatory program. We would also like to thank the ASC staff for meeting with us on November] 9th to further try to resolve some of these concerns.

Below we have addressed these issues and are happy to report that we are making progress and will continue to address these deficiencies.

The Board has been unable to attain a quorum on a regular basis, which has seriously undermined substantive portions of the District's Program.

1. On February 7, 2005, the Mayor swore in two new Board members, bringing the Board up to its full compliment of Five members. The board held meetings in November, January, and, with our new Board members, in February.
2. To facilitate maintaining a fully staffed Board into the future, the Board is seeking an amendment to the law that will change the composition of the Board from four licensed appraisers and one consumer member to three licensed appraisers, one member designated as a Real Estate Broker, and one consumer member.

The District does not investigate and resolve complaints against appraisers in a timely manner. Investigative reports lacked substance.

The Board is trying to address both of these issues by hiring licensed appraisers as auditors/reviewers to investigate complaints and write investigative reports. Several states currently use this method to handle complaints. We are currently working with the District's Contracts and Procurement Office to hire several appraisers on a contract basis as soon as possible to perform these investigative duties. Because of our work with the District's Contracts and Procurement Office, in January we mailed a letter with a

statement of work to all Licensed Certified General Real Property Appraisers licensed in the District of Columbia asking for applications for these contract positions.

We are attaching our Complaint log to provide a status of all complaints.

The District's temporary practice fee is not consistent with ASC Policy Statement 5

In the District of Columbia, the license fee and the application fee are two separate fees. The Temporary License fee is \$150 and the application fee for all license categories is \$65. Attached is one copy of the April 30, 2004, Notice of Final Rulemaking relating to the Non-Health Related Occupations and Professions license fees and one copy of the Council's Resolution declaring the existence of an emergency and a need to approve measures to support actions taken to close a \$323 million budgetary shortfall in the District's Fiscal Year 2003 proposed budget.

Again, I would like to emphasize that the Board and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs would like to continue and try to resolve all of these issues as quickly as possible. If you or your staff should have any questions about the District's appraiser program please do not hesitate to contact me or Dorothy Thomas, Contact Representative to the Board on 202-442-4472.

Sincerely,

Gregory Syphax
Chairperson
District of Columbia Board of Appraisers

Attachments (4)

cc Ben Henson
Vicki Ledbetter
Ron Collins
Clifford Cooks
Cheryl Randall Thomas