

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 37200. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7200
BOARD OF APPRAISERS.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATION
TO THE BOARD

October 24, 1996

Ms. Diana L. Garmus, Chairperson
Appraisal Subcommittee
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Suite 200
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Ms. Garmus:

Thank you for your letter received September 24, 1996. The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and the Board of Appraisers have reviewed your comments and prepared the following responses per issue of concern as you requested.

At the time of the April 1996, review, and for several months prior to and since that time, the Board did not function due to lack of a quorum in its membership.

The appointments to the Appraiser Board in the District of Columbia are made by the Mayor and confirmed by D.C. Council. At best, this process takes two to three months; it is typically longer. As we have said before, these are political appointments. No matter how alert staff or boards are about term expiration the ultimate decision rests with the Mayor to fill vacancies. We provide adequate notice to the Mayor's Office on Boards and Commissions of pending term expirations.

The temporary practice fee imposed by the District is the highest in the nation.

In 1992, when the Appraisal program was implemented, the Appraisal Subcommittee did not provide any guidelines for setting fees for temporary licenses. Fees in the District are established by the User Fee Committee and are approved by the District of Columbia Council. It is our understanding that the ASC will be establishing a standard fee for all jurisdictions. We look forward to using the ASC standard as the basis for setting the District of Columbia temporary license fee for appraisers.

Information from your biannual renewal cycle has not been received by the ASC.

We are mindful of the 30-day deadline that the Appraisal Subcommittee has imposed for delivery of the Registry fees and roster. As you are aware, neither the Appraiser Board nor the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs has any authority to release these funds. We have requested that the Office of Controller pay the Registry fee to the Appraisal Subcommittee. For their part the Appraiser Board has written a letter to

Hampton Cross, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. A copy of the letter will be forwarded to you. The Appraiser Board has also been in contact with the Mayor's Office on Boards and Commissions so that the Mayor may be apprised of the consequences that will result if these fees remain unpaid. We understand the Appraisal Subcommittee's position regarding the Registry fees. We hope that you understand, as well, that we and the Appraiser Board are taking all possible action to effect a resolution.

An analysis of the District's listing of appraisers as of February 1996 revealed discrepancies between the District's list and the Registry.

We agree with your review. Mr. Wright, Program Manager for the License and Certification Division, and the Appraiser Board will review the current billing process and devise an appropriate solution for persons who obtain a license during the second year of the licensing cycle. Mr. Wright is willing to work with members of your staff to ensure proper credit to those billed during both the second year and renewal term.

The part-time assistant hired to aid in Board activities is frequently assigned other duties.

The part-time person was hired in December 1995, at a time when the Appraiser Board was not meeting regularly. Management deemed it more appropriate to temporarily assign staff as needed to areas where there was more activity, while still permitting her to perform the more limited tasks of the Appraiser Board.

Now the Appraiser Board is again fully functional, they will be reviewing the role of the part-time assistant in their on-going activities.

The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and the Appraiser Board will be working closely to meet all of your deadlines.

Sincerely yours,

Clifford Cooks
Program Manager

cc: Appraisal Board
Lewis Wright