

**Rhode Island
Citizens' Commission for the
Safety and Care of the Elderly**

January 12, 2006

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Tamarisk Assisted Living in Warwick by Acting Second Chairperson Norman Chapman.

Attendance: Kathleen McNamee, Steve Dresner, Esq., Norman Chapman, Cliff Largess, Mary Cerra, Fire Chief Rick Susi, Kathy McNamee, Gloria Heisler, Mary Frances Campbell, John F. Smollins, Jr., Esq. were present. Paula Parker of DEA attended.

Anna Tucker, Chairperson, Anna Prior, Alfred W. Cardente, Jack Quigley, Cindy A. Soccio, Esq., Gloria Williams and Lt. Eric Lariviere were excused.

Chief Rick Susi received plaudits for his efforts in recruiting Fire Department Advocates for the Commission. He stated that Fire Advocates would be expected to play an active role in fire prevention and safety for seniors.

Chief Susi informed the group that Chief Robert W. Seltzer of the Central Coventry Fire District, located at 2847 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI 02816 (phone 392-9000) was the new head of the Fire Chief Association. He also indicated that he would continue on the Commission as the designee of the Fire Chief Association.

Norm Chapman introduced Paula Parker of DEA who spoke on the legislative agenda for seniors to include:

- 1. Getting the Older Americans Act reauthorized;**
- 2. Developing an Office of Elder Protection at DEA;**
- 3. Planning for the bird flu pandemic;**
- 4. Changing the RI Guardianship law and other initiatives**

Paula Parker also presented a draft of proposed by laws for consideration. The group made several suggestions for adjustments to the draft by laws. Paula indicated that she would incorporate them in the document.

Chief Susi indicated the importance of collaboration with Police Advocates in coordinating help for elders. Mary Frances Campbell observed that Pawtucket has utilized the Police / Fire partnership for many years. She has advocated for elders for many years at the State House and in Pawtucket.

Several members commented on the need for increased Commission funding with the advent of Fire Advocates.

Norm Chapman thanked members for their input.

Gloria Heisler moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Her motion was seconded by Mary Cerra, Mary Frances Campbell and Kathleen McNamee.

**Respectfully submitted,
John Smollins, Jr., Esq.
DEA Legal Counsel**