

## **10/16/19 Domestic Abuse Commission Minutes**

### **In attendance:**

Meg Ryan Shockey

Ruth Scarbro

Robin Lawrence

Barb Paulitzky

Alex Paul

Mohamadnur Hassan

Euclid Councilwoman Christine McIntosh

Lindsey Grdina

### **News:**

The Legal Aid Society “The Alert” newsletter highlights the important legislation that Brooklyn passed earlier this year giving tenants housing rights. As mentioned in this article, domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness, which is why this legislation is so important.

### **Guest speaker:**

Lindsey Grdina from Grdina Legal Services lead a very powerful discussion about domestic abuse, how it affects the community, and the work she does in the field.

We discussed the tenant housing bill that Brooklyn passed earlier this year and how she did have a client living in Brooklyn several years ago who could have benefitted from this legislation. After talking with the landlord about this specific situation, the landlord refused to let the tenant break their lease, which she eventually did. The landlord threatened to sue, which caused additional stress for the victim. In the end, the landlord did not sue the tenant for breach of contract, but the additional stress Lindsey’s client had during this already difficult situation could have been avoided with this legislation.

Lindsey also discussed the strangulation bill, which the commission has discussed in the past, as it has been introduced at a state level. This bill would make strangulation a felony, while it is currently a misdemeanor in Ohio.

Lindsey discussed with the commission the work she does as an advocate and the work her job entails as an advocate for a domestic abuse victim.

**General Updates:**

- It is Domestic Abuse Awareness month
- Last month, we had two fundraisers! We, unfortunately, did not receive enough for Chipotle to get a donation....but we received just over \$100 from Applebees!
- We have a donation drive going on from October 15 - October 24, being collected at Brooklyn Police Station as we did last year. Thanks to Chief Mielke for giving us a safe place to collect donations this month

**Other items that may come before commission**

**Adjourn**

*Next meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at Westbrook Apartments*