

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

DATE: August 6, 2015

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sachchida N. Gupta
Lawrence W. Helminiak
Marilyn Jumalon
Jeffrey Ross
Michael Shilling
Andrew Snyder
Joseph Tunney
I Jean White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wm. Bruce Quackenbush

DLLR OFFICIALS AND
STAFF PRESENT: Deborah Irvin-Cromwell, Assistant Executive Director
David R. Finneran, Executive Director
Joel Jacobson, Assistant Attorney General
Michael Miller, Investigator
Kimberly Rosenthal, Administrative Officer
Tracy Wilson, Office Processing Clerk

Call to Order

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

Welcome Lawrence W. Helminiak

Mr. Finneran welcomed Lawrence W. Helminiak as a new Commissioner to the Maryland Home Improvement Commission Board. The Commissioners look forward to working with Mr. Helminiak.

Approval of the August 6, 2015 Minutes

The Minutes of the August 6, 2015, Commission meeting were approved.

Guaranty Fund Activity Report

The MHIC Guaranty Fund Activity Report dated July 16, 2015 is as follows:

Balance as of July 1, 2014	\$ 551,241.40
Receipts	\$ 1,646,056.73
Interest	-0-
Disbursements	
Claims	(\$1,309,800.83)
Refunds	
Balance as of June 30, 2015	\$ 887,497.30

Review of Exam Results

Below is the examination statistics summary for the month of June and July 2015.

June 2015

Home Improvement	Candidates			
	Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass %
Contractor	133	93	40	70%
Contractor Spanish	57	29	28	51%
Subcontractor	6	1	5	17%
Subcontractor Spanish	2	0	2	0%
Salesperson	80	60	20	75%
Salesperson Spanish	0	0	0	
TOTAL	278	183	95	66%

July 2015

Contractor	109	81	28	74%
Contractor Spanish	51	24	27	47%
Subcontractor	6	5	1	83%
Subcontractor Spanish	3	1	2	33%
Salesperson	83	66	17	80%
Salesperson Spanish	0	0	0	
TOTAL	252	177	75	70%

Sub-Contractor License

Mr. Finneran informed the Commission that the concept paper for legislation to eliminate the Subcontractor license was submitted to Secretary Schulz's office. Secretary Schulz has requested that the Commission submit a completed legislative proposal to her office by August 21, 2015. If approved by the Secretary and the Governor's office, that legislation would be introduced in the 2016 session of the Legislature.

Maryland Pools

Mr. Finneran informed the Commission that the license of Maryland Pools, Inc. was suspended on June 9, 2015, as a result of complaints indicating that Maryland Pools had ceased operation and abandoned multiple pool construction projects. The investigation of the complaints against Maryland Pools is being coordinated by Investigator Michael Miller. Investigator Miller informed the Commission that there are currently 22 complaints which have been received against Maryland Pools for abandoned contracts. Investigator Miller indicated that the total price of the 22 contracts is \$1,256,041.00. Investigator Miller also explained that Maryland Pools has filed bankruptcy, and that proceedings are currently under way in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court concerning distribution of the company's assets. Investigator Miller explained that Guaranty Fund claim forms were recently sent to the homeowners who have filed complaints against Maryland Pools. The Commission discussed the fact that the total of Guaranty Fund claims against Maryland Pools is expected to exceed the \$100,000 cap under the law. The Commission also discussed whether a specific deadline should be established for the filing of Guaranty Fund claims. The Commission agreed to table further discussion of that issue until the next meeting.

Power Wash License Inquiry


Shelby Keefe inquired whether a license would be required to use Clorox Outdoor Bleach when power washing an existing residential home. Commissioner Snyder made a motion that a license would not be required. Commissioner Ross seconded the motion and the Commissioners unanimously agreed that a home improvement license would not be required.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.



Joseph Tunney, Chair



David R. Finneran, Executive Director