

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2025

6:30-8:00 PM

Webex link and Seattle City Hall, Room L280

Purpose: The Seattle Renters' Commission (SRC) was established to represent the interest of renters located in Seattle, to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on public policy matters of importance to renters citywide.

Commissioners in attendance Kate Rubin, Lydia Felty, and Julissa Sanchez

Commissioners not in attendance Dan Godfrey, Atif Osami

People with pending appointments in attendance: Julia Payne

Staff: Laura Jenkins

Quorum: Yes

Public Comment: No

(Transcriber's note: These minutes provide a summary of key points discussed. A full recording is available upon request.)

Welcome & Acknowledgments

- Land and labor acknowledgments led by Commissioner Rubin.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- The agenda for February 4, 2025 SRC meeting was approved with additions.
- The minutes from January 8, 2025 SRC meeting were approved.

Commission's Budget and Tenant Listening Session

- The SRC, in collaboration with the Women's Commission and LGBTQ Commission, is planning a Tenant Listening Session.
- **Budget Considerations:** \$5,000 allocated for the year; cost assessment for venue, interpretation, and childcare is ongoing.
- **Planning and Coordination:**
 - Seattle Public Library as a potential venue; Laura Jenkins has reached out for cost considerations.
 - Outreach to Office for Civil Rights about childcare funding.
 - Interpretation needs assessment; focus on Spanish and potentially other languages.
 - Discussion on virtual vs. in-person sessions:
 - Virtual session may serve as a trial to gauge participation.
 - In-person session requires careful planning to accommodate language access needs.
- **Action Items:**
 - Schedule next planning meeting the week of February 17, 2025.
 - Finalize outreach materials and event promotion strategy.
 - Coordinate with language access specialists.

Seattle Comprehensive Plan – Anti-Displacement Measures

- Commissioner Rubin attended a Select Committee on the Comprehensive Plan related to anti-displacement strategies and shared an overview with the commission.
- **Key Points:**

- The plan includes rental protections like Right to Counsel and Economic Displacement Relocation Assistance. Commissioner Rubin said additional rental protections such as eviction prevention and tenant services should be considered.
- **Action Item:**
 - No commission members volunteered to testify at the upcoming public hearing, but SRC continues to monitor the issue.

Media Request on Economic Displacement Relocation Assistance (EDRA)

- A reporter requested SRC's perspective on the City's anti-displacement efforts.
- **Discussion:**
 - Commissioners agreed that without prior discussion, it was inappropriate to respond on behalf of SRC.
- **Outcome:**
 - No response was provided due to the missed deadline.

Unfinished/New Business

Tenant Services Request for Proposals (RFP)

- The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) released the 2025 RFP for tenant services with a deadline of February 10th.
- Notable changes:
 - Tenant organizing is no longer included in the scope.
 - Education priorities are more narrowly defined.
- **Action Item:**
 - SRC continues to monitor the impact on tenant service providers.

Pending Commission Appointments & Holdover Voting Power

- No updates on pending SRC appointments from Councilmember Moore's office.
- **Legal Clarification:**
 - Commissioners continue to serve and vote until successors are appointed.
- **Action Item:**
 - Consider public testimony at the February 12, 2025, Housing and Human Services Committee meeting.

Sign-On Letter Regarding Renter Protection Law Changes

- Housing justice organizations drafted a letter opposing rumored rollbacks on renter protections.
- **Discussion:**
 - Commissioners reviewed alignment with SRC's prior votes and policies.
- **Outcome:**
 - Motion passed to sign on to the letter.
 - Action deferred on public posting until the letter is finalized.

Social Housing PDA Board Appointments

- SRC is responsible for appointing a representative for the 80-100% AMI range position.
- **Action Item:**
 - Candidates' information will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.
- **Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 PM**

Decisions and Votes made during this meeting:

1. The commission voted on and approved signing on to a letter opposing rumored rollbacks on renter protections. Action deferred on public posting until the letter is finalized.