

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2025

4:30-5:00 PM

Webex Meeting and Seattle City Hall, Room 370

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, Julissa Sanchez

Commissioners not in attendance: Atif Osami, Dan Godfrey

People with pending appointments in attendance: Allan Francis, Adora Blue, Sally Kinney, Liz Fite

Staff: Laura Jenkins from Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Israel Rios from Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell's Office

Quorum: Yes

Public Comment: Yes

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

Welcome & Land and Labor Acknowledgement and Approval of Agenda

Meeting opened at 4:30 PM with a land and labor acknowledgment. The July 16 SRC special meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comment

Israel Rios, External Affairs Liaison from Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell's Office, thanked the SRC Interim Co-Chairs, Lydia Felty and Kate Rubin, for their work to prepare SRC appointment paperwork.

Conversation about Seattle Shield Proposal and Possible Vote

The commission discussed whether to write a letter to endorse the Seattle Shield proposal. If moved forward by Seattle City Council and the Seattle Mayor, the proposal would be on Seattle voters' ballots to lower taxes for approximately 90% of Seattle businesses that currently pay the City Business and Occupation (B&O) tax and raise needed new progressive revenue to protect funding for essential services and programs.

Commissioners voted and approved that they will write a letter in support of the Seattle Shield proposal that will clarify these funds should not go to any other sources, mention the communities most in need of these funds and what is happening on a federal level, and advocate for more progressive revenue to make sure our communities are protected. This approval also covers public comment current commissioners (Kate, Lydia, and Julissa) would like to make on behalf of the commission in relation to this topic within these approved parameters.

Kate and Allan plan to draft the letter. Julissa and Adora will review the letter before it is publicly posted.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Decisions and Votes made during this meeting:

1. Commissioners voted and approved that they will write a letter in support of the Seattle Shield proposal that will clarify these funds should not go to any other sources, mention the communities most in need of these funds and what is happening on a federal level, and advocate for more progressive revenue to make sure our communities are protected.
 - This approval also covers public comment current commissioners (Kate, Lydia, and Julissa) would like to make on behalf of the commission in relation to this topic within these approved parameters.