



## City of Seattle

Seattle Renters' Commission

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ChrisTiana ObeySumner & Jessica Westgren, Co-Chairs

October 10, 2018

Members of the Seattle City Council,

The Seattle Renters Commission (the "SRC") strongly believes the upcoming budget deliberations should include a substantial and impactful funding of measures that focus on preventing homelessness and address the root causes that lead too many of our city's residents to be unsheltered and unhoused.

According to "Losing Home: The Human Cost of Eviction in Seattle" by the Seattle Women's Commission (the "SWC") and the Housing Justice Project (the "HJP"), eviction is one of the leading causes of homelessness. Vulnerable communities are most often highly impacted. According to the SCW and HJP report, last year in Seattle 51.7% of tenants in eviction proceedings were people of color, 81% of tenants in eviction proceedings owing \$100 or less were women; of those evicted, 37.5% became completely unsheltered, 25% moved to a shelter or transitional housing, and 25% moved in with family or friends. Only 12.5% of those evicted in 2017 found another apartment or home to move into after being evicted. These findings show once an individual is unhoused, the odds of them being permanently housed soon thereafter are not in their favor.

The SRC urges council to adopt two budget measures that will ensure vulnerable renters are treated in an equitable, compassionate, and humane manner:

- Increase funding for renter outreach programs, like the Renting in Seattle portal, to educate vulnerable renters about their rights; and,
- Fund legal services, like those provided by the HJP, for renters facing eviction.

The SRC supports measures that allocate funding toward meaningful and effective solutions that will address the homelessness crisis in our city.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Seattle Renters' Commission