

SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2024

6:30-8:00 PM

Webex link 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, Dan Godfrey, and Julissa Sanchez

Commissioners not in attendance: Atif Osami

People with pending appointments in attendance: Julia Payne, Daniel Lugo, E.Mandisa

Staff: Laura Jenkins

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 & Acknowledgments

- Land and labor acknowledgments led by Commissioner Rubin.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- The agenda for December 5, 2024, and minutes from November 6, 2024, were approved.

Seattle City Budget Update

- Budget cuts reduce tenant services grants by \$1 million for 2025.
- Link to the full adopted budget document:
<https://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13566589&GUID=6FFBD9D0-47FE-49EB-80F6-938FBD6E6FD3>
- Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections (SDCI) is conducting outreach to evaluate their tenant services grant program and gather input from frontline staff, city departments, and stakeholders.

Public Comment

- An LGBTQ Commission member highlighted challenges for nonprofits, housing discrimination concerns, and funding delays.
- They offered suggestions to improve visibility for LGBTQ renter protections and prioritize collaboration with community groups.

Conversation with Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections (SDCI)

- Geoff Tallent, representing SDCI, outlined challenges with funding cuts and the balance between legal services and community outreach. The team has limited capacity for lower priority calls.
- Commissioners has various questions for SDCI. They emphasized the importance of targeted legal support and creative partnerships to maximize service coverage.
- SDCI aims to streamline the grant process to minimize disruption to service providers.

Commission's Budget

- \$2,500 remains for commission's 2024 budget.
- Proposal to print Renting in Seattle handbooks in multiple languages for distribution in under-resourced communities.
 - Spanish identified as a priority language, other languages under consideration.
 - Commission voted to proceed with the printing project in coordination with SDCI.

Unfinished/New Business

- \$50,000 tenant work group funding removed from City of Seattle budget was discussed.
- Appointed commissioners voted to and approved writing and sending a letter to City Council regarding potential proposed changes to ethics requirements.
- The commission discussed a retreat or extended meeting proposed to focus on 2025 work planning.
- Commissioners also talked about possible ways to build a relationship with Councilmember Moore, the Chair of the Housing & Human Services Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Decisions/votes made during this meeting:

- Commission voted to proceed with spending remaining budget on the Renting in Seattle handbook printing project in coordination with SDCI.
- Appointed commissioners voted to write and send a letter to City Council regarding potential proposed changes to ethics requirements.