

**SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

Monday November 6, 2017

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Seattle Municipal Tower, Rm 1756

Approved December 4, 2017

**Commissioners Present:** Beverly Aarons, Clifford C. Cawthon, Sherry Collier  
Calvin Jones, Daniela Lopez, David Mooney,  
Christiana Obey Sumner, Michael Padilla Ocampo, Laurie Rocello Torres  
Jessica Westgren

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**Commissioners Absent:** Jack Barker, L. Curtis Blankinship, Jessie Jacobs

**Commission Staff:** Maureen Sheehan, Department of Neighborhoods

**Guests:** Ted Virdone, Legislative Aide to Councilmember Kshama Sawant  
Geoff Tallent & Dulcie O' Sullivan, SDCI, Rental Programs Manager

*Seattle Renter's Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript, and represent key points and the basis of discussion.*

**Minutes Approval**

There was a motion to approve the minutes from October 2, 2017, and it was seconded. The Commission voted and the motion was approved.

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**Announcements**

- Ms. Maureen Sheehan announced that this meeting is an open public meeting and it is being recorded. Commissioners are allowed three absences without notification to her and the chair. Repetitive, unexcused and unnotified absences will be tracked.
- She reminded the Commissioners about the meeting protocols that were established at the last meeting and they are listed in the agenda.
- She reminded the Commissioners that public comments should be respectful. Individual opinions should be kept to themselves and questions posed during public comments should be held until deliberation.
- Ms. Sheehan reminded the Commissioners that meetings are held on the first Mondays of the month, and the January meeting falls on a holiday. She asked the Commissioners their preference for rescheduling the January meeting. The Commissioners requested to have a doodle poll sent and discuss the results at the December meeting.
- Ms. Sheehan mentioned that since the Commission are in the process of developing its mission and goals, she asked the Commissioners about their interests and an opportunity share their passionate issues during this process and how would they want to handle these issues.
- Ms. Sheehan mentioned that the Department of Neighborhoods is working on getting a facilitator for this Commission to help in developing and organizing a work plan.

- After commission discussion, Ms. Sheehan reiterated what the group was saying to have a subgroup be formed to handle any long-term issues that can be discussed in further details and having a section in the agenda where the Commissioners can present and discuss their critical issues.
- A commissioner commented that for transparency, it is important to explain to their representative group how decisions were being made by the Commission.

### **Election of Chair & Vice/Co-chair**

- Ms. Sheehan mentioned that the Commission have the option to have a vice-chair or co-chair. A vice-chair steps in when the chair is not available, while a co-chair works as a team and develop the agenda and manage the meeting.
- The Commission voted seven in favor of having a Co-chair and three in favor of a Chair/Vice-chair.
- The nominees for the Commission's chair and co-chair were: Ms. ChrisTiana Obey Sumner, Mr. Clifford C. Cawthon, Ms. Sherry Collier, and Ms. Laurie Rocello Torres.
- The Commission voted and Ms. Sheehan announced that the co-chairs for this Commission are Ms. Laurie Rocello Torres and Ms. Sherry Collier.

### **Briefing: Economic Eviction Legislation**

*Ted Virdone, Legislative Aide to Councilmember Kshama Sawant*

Mr. Virdone presented an overview of the Economic Eviction Legislation regarding helping renters facing economic eviction. The legislation is expected to be introduced after the budget process is completed. Mr. Virdone is hoping for an endorsement in principle from the Commission. They will continue to provide more details as the draft legislation evolves.

- The Commission decided to hold off on supporting the draft legislation until more details are provided. Mr. Virdone will come back at the next Commission meeting to provide further details and an update.

### **Briefing: An Introduction to SDCI and Renting in Seattle**

*Geoff Tallent & Dulcie O'Sullivan Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection, Rental Programs Manager*

Mr. Tallent and Ms. O'Sullivan presented an overview of SDCI and Renting programs in Seattle.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Matthew Lang of Transit Riders Union and Housing for All coalition commented that his organization is working in coalition with over 60 other organizations to curb the homelessness crisis in Seattle as well as advancing their platform. Their organization is advocating for a long-term voucher program, shelter now, scale up shelter services like the tiny home villages, and sanctioning encampments. He noted that homeless camps sweeps are not working because it is costly, ineffective and inhumane. They would also like to advocate safe parks for people living in their cars.

### **Adjourn**

No further business being before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm