

**SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

Monday, June 8, 2020

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Skype Meeting

Approved July 6, 2020

**Commissioners Present:** Dinah Braccio, Laurie Goff, Calvin Jones,  
Marci Taitt-Lamar, Daniela Lopez, Mac McGregor, Regina Owens  
Jessica Westgren

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**Commissioners Absent:** ChrisTiana Obey Sumner (A)

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**Commission Staff:** Shaquan Smith, Department of Neighborhoods

**Guests:** None

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

**Opening Remarks**

- Ms. Jessica Westgren opened the meeting.

**Commission's response to the current situation in the City of Seattle**

- The Commission discussed and worked on two letters to send to the Mayor's Office and the City Council.
- The Commission discussed the City's response to the COVID-10 pandemic. Ms. Daniella Lopez commented that the Mayor should advocate policies that she could enforce. Ms. Westgren added that the Commission is not asking the Mayor and the City Council what they cannot enforce but what they can be done.
- There was a motion to approve the Commission's letter about the City's response to COVID-19 and it was seconded by Mr. Calvin Jones. The Commission voted and the motion was approved.
- The Commission will provide the letters to Mr. Shaquan Smith to send to the Mayor and City Council.
- Ms. Westgren along with Ms. Lopez and Ms. Dinah Braccio worked on drafting a letter supporting the Black Lives Matter (BLM) and the response of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) actions towards the protestors.
- The Commission commented that there was inadequate and insufficient response by the City Council towards the BLM movement and SPD's actions.
- Ms. Lopez noted that it took a while for the City Council to respond as a unit and showed a lack of leadership.

- The Commission suggested drafting a strong and powerful statement letter that addresses what the Mayor and City Council are not doing and provides clear examples of areas that they fail.
- Mr. Jones commented about refraining from negative criticism and focus on the positive areas that worked.
- Ms. Laurie Goff noted that the failures by the Mayor and the City Council about their inadequate and insufficient response should be called out.
- The Commission also discussed the verbiage around defunding the police. The Commission noted that defunding the police does not mean dismantling the police but rather reallocating police funds to community programs and organizations that will be better equipped to respond and address to the needs of the community.
- The Commission also added to have a language that addresses police and police union transparency that advocates clear accountability.
- There was a motion to approve the letter regarding the Mayor and City's response to the BLM movement and the SPD's actions and it was seconded. The Commission voted and the motion was approved unanimously. The Commission will send the final letter to Mr. Smith for distribution.

#### **Commissioner Opportunity to Share (1:44:34)**

- Ms. Westgren mentioned that most of the City's commission is on paused due to the pandemic. She added that she would like to have this Commission continue to work towards its stated goal.
- Ms. Westgren asked the Commission members to listen to their communities and if there is a need for the Renter's Commission to assist to let her know. She also asked to continue open communication and dialogue among the members during this difficult time.
- Ms. Westgren commented that at the next meeting, there will be a presentation around available technology that would help the rents in the City of Seattle.

#### **Adjourn**

- No further business being held before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.