

Seattle Renters' Commission Meeting and Special Seattle Women's Commission & LGBTQ Commission Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2025

6:30-8:30 PM

Zoom Meeting and Seattle City Hall, Room 370

Commissioners in attendance:

- Seattle Renters' Commission: Kate Rubin, Lydia Felty, Dan Godfrey
- Seattle Women's Commission: Emily Rose Barr
- Seattle LGBTQ Commission: Jessa Davis, Brett Pepowski, Ashley Ford

People with pending appointments in attendance: Julia Payne

Staff: Laura Jenkins, Sebastian Wilson

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 and Introductions

- Representatives from each of the commissions outlined their respective commission's purpose and the work they do.

Current State of Renter Protections

- Commissioner Kate Rubin outlined some of the current Seattle renter protections:
 - Late fees are limited to \$10/month.
 - Landlords must give six months' notice of a rent increase.
 - If you are on a year-long or six-month lease, the landlord cannot terminate your tenancy at the end of the lease unless they have a good reason.
 - Many tenants are protected from eviction during the winter.
 - Families are protected from eviction during the school year.
 - Tenants have a right to live with a family member or roommate.
 - If you are the first to apply for an apartment and you meet the qualifications, the landlord cannot refuse to rent to you.
 - If your landlord raises the rent more than 10% in a year and you move out, you are entitled to relocation assistance of 3x the monthly rent.

Purpose of this listening session and instructions

- Commissioner Jessa Davis went over the purpose of the listening session:
 - To listen to and understand the experiences of Seattle renters
 - Identify challenges and gather ideas on what resources, support, and policies can help renters stay housed
 - The information collected will help guide recommendations for city policies and programs that better support renters

Public comment

- Commissioner Jessa Davis facilitated the public comment portion of the meeting. She asked a few guiding questions:

- What challenges are you facing as a renter?
- What policies or resources would help you stay housed?
- How can the City better support renters, especially those most at risk of displacement?
- About 15 people provided public comment or asked questions about renting in Seattle.

Renter Resources and Ways to Stay Engaged

- Julia Payne provided more information on existing renters' resources and ways to stay engaged:
 - **Renters Resources**
 - Renter's Handbook (available in multiple languages):
<https://www.seattle.gov/rentinginseattle/renters/moving-in/renters-handbook>
 - King County Tenant Resource Line: 1-855-485-8767
 - 2-1-1: [Home - Washington 211 - Washington 211](#)
 - Washington Law Help: Free legal information and court forms written by lawyers to guide you through the court processes of eviction and security deposit disputes: WashingtonLawHelp.org | [Helpful information about the law in Washington.](#)
 - Stay Engaged
 - City Council Meetings
 - [Housing and Human Services Committee Meetings](#): 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM
 - [City Council Briefing Meetings](#): Weekly on Mondays at 2:00 PM
 - [City Council Meetings](#): Weekly on Tuesdays at 2:00 PM
 - Commission Meetings
 - [Seattle Renters' Commission](#): 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM
 - [Seattle Women's Commission](#): 3rd Monday of each month at 5:30 PM
 - [Seattle LGBTQ Commission](#): 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM
 - Learnings from this session will be written up in a report and shared with City Council.

Adjournment