

## **SEATTLE RENTERS' COMMISSION (SRC) SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

August 27, 2025

11:00am - 12:30pm

Webex Meeting and Seattle City Hall, Room L2-80

**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, Kasey Burton, Lydia Felty, Allan Francis, Adora Blue, Sam Wolfson, Karen Taylor, Sally Kinney

**Commissioners not in attendance:** Julissa Sanchez, Daniel Lugo, Liz Fite, Angela O'Brien, Andrew Ashiofu

**City Staff in attendance:** Christa Valles from Office of Mayor Bruce Harrell, Marco Lowe from Office of Mayor Bruce Harrell, Isaac Horwith from Office of Mayor Bruce Harrell, and Laura Jenkins from Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

**Quorum:** Yes

**Public Comment:** No

(Transcriber's note: These minutes provide a summary of key points discussed. A full recording is available upon request.)

### **Welcome and Approval of Agenda**

Meeting opened at 11:00am with a land and labor acknowledgment.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment during the meeting. Some public comments were emailed to the commission's staff liaison inbox prior to the meeting. These comments were shared with the commission via email.

### **Multi-Family Tax Exemption (MFTE) Proposal Presentation from the Seattle Mayor's Office**

The commission invited members of the Mayor's Office to present about the proposed updates to the Multi-Family Tax Exemption (MFTE) program since it is an issue that impacts renters. Interim co-chair Kate Rubin mentioned that it feels like renters have been out of the conversation leading up to this proposal.

Christa, Marco, and Isaac provided a shorter version of the presentation they gave to Seattle City Council about the MFTE proposal a few weeks earlier. They shortened it slightly due to time constraints and to allow time for questions from the commissioners.

The purpose of the presentation was to review the proposed legislation to update City's MFTE program. Presenters reviewed the background, history, and purpose of the MFTE program at both the Washington State and City of Seattle levels.

The Mayor's Office also discussed their proposed updates and goals of those updates.

Commissioners asked a variety of questions throughout the presentation that the Mayor's Office responded to. Commissioners' questions revolved around these topics:

- Data and numbers
  - Some data was pulled from the [City's housing dashboard](#).
- Unit/Bedroom size requirements
- MFTE-related words definitions
- Proposal sunset date (end date)
- Potential impacts on renters

The meeting was extended by 30 minutes (until 11:30am) to allow for additional time for the presentation and questions.

The Mayor's Office also shared about proposals from the Seattle Office of Housing to help simplify the administrative requirements for tenants who participate in the MFTE program. These updates will be brought forward in an Office of Housing Director's Rules and not through legislation.

Christa mentioned that the MFTE proposal is currently in Council's hands, and they would be discussing it at meetings in September. There will be an opportunity for public comment.

Kate emphasized the Commission would love to be approached to weigh in on things that might be impacting renters as the Mayor's Office is working on them.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

### **Decisions and Votes made during this meeting:**

1. None