

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
- **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