



City of Seattle

Seattle Renters' Commission

Laurie Rocello Torres & TBD, Co-Chairs

September 6, 2018

Dear Mayor Durkan,

We, the members of the Seattle Renters Commission (SRC), write to you to express our frustration and deep disappointment with the mishandling of Commissioner Sherry Collier's appointment to the SRC.

Commissioner Collier has been thorough, consistent, and unwavering in her leadership of this brand-new commission since our inception. As co-chair she has helped advance our process and procedures and sharpen how the commission functions. She has consistently been an active participant in the many discussions pertaining to the complexity of rent, housing supply, and community outreach in Seattle. Her leadership has been integral in the development of our commission, and we find it appalling that your office has failed to recognize her skill and expertise by not renewing her appointment to the commission. If we are expected to effectively carry out the duties of our terms, we expect the City of Seattle to respect our time and contributions.

The SRC is a unique formation and was originally an example of this City's more progressive initiative in finding solutions to managing our rapid growth while also mitigating the impact on marginalized communities. Commissioners joined because they wanted an active role in creating solutions and making policy recommendations and trusted that the City would give its support to create the conditions for the commission's success.

The lack of transparency and inaction regarding Commissioner Collier's re-appointment by your office is discouraging. The City of Seattle has made strides to really implement and incorporate its Race and Social Justice Initiative throughout all departments. We look to the Mayor's office as an example of how to uphold this work and find the lack of support for a black woman's leadership in our commission disappointing.

While we respect and understand Commissioner Collier's decision to step down as a result of a seven-month long process to try to get a decision on her reappointment, it has come to our attention that the Mayor's office failed to act and neglected to reappoint Commissioner Collier. We demand that the Mayor and/ or City Council reinstate her immediately. The Mayor's mishandling of Commissioner Collier's reappointment has inhibited from us doing our duty to the people of the City of Seattle.

We want to express our recognition of Commissioner Collier's contribution and the impact your office has had on providing support to our commission. Because of this mishandling, the SRC is losing the talent and leadership of one of our most active members.

We hope your office learns from this mishandling and exhibits a stronger commitment to supporting leaders of color, being more transparent with communication in the future. We look forward to Commissioner Collier being with us at our October meeting.

Thank You,

The Seattle Renters' Commission

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