**SEATTLE RENTERS’ COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

Monday, February 7, 2022

6:00 – 7:30 pm

WebEx

**Commissioners Present:** Mac McGregor, Gina Owens, Arianna Laureano, Dinah Braccio, Laurie Goff

**Commissioners Absent:** Haley Freedlund (E), Rachel Sanchez (E), Maya Garfunkel (E), ChrisTiana ObeySumner (E)

**Commission Staff:** Alexis Izor & Shaquan Smith, Department of Neighborhoods

**Guests:** Karla Davis & Katharine Nyden, Housing Justice Project (HJP)

*(Transcriber’s Note: Seattle Renters’ Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion. The recording of the minutes is available upon request.)*

**Welcome and Announcements**

* Potential Get Engaged Candidate Daniel Godfrey introduced himself.

**Public Comment**

* None

**Housing Justice Project Presentation**

* Power point presentation by Karla Davis, a right-to-counsel coordinator, and Katherine Nyden about what the HJP does and doesn’t do. How to access services, who is eligible for and how to access their services. They provide legal assistance to persons living in King County.
* Karla described the Eviction Resolution Pilot program. Katherine described the various rental assistance programs: Limited Landlord Relief Program, Landlord Mitigation Program and Landlord Damage Relief Program, Right to Counsel and its barriers/challenges, including language access.
* Karla described the different kinds of notices they respond to for assistance to renters, the Eviction Resolution Program to help mediate the rent dispute.
* Katherine described the Right to Counsel regulations regarding Rental Assistance programs: Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Program: Landlord, Tenant Program, and Hub & Spoke Program. She also spoke to the Limited Landlord Relief Program (part of the Department of Commerce), Landlord Mitigation Program and Landlord Damage Relief Program and the Right to Counsel regulations as well as the access issues facing the tenants including lack of technical resources.
* She also spoke about recommendations RTC attorneys feel are necessary to do their jobs better.
* Discussion about the ways in which landlords can price tenants out of their homes without actually evicting them.
* Group discussion on how to educate voters about their rights like Right to Counsel and other new rules and regulations.

**Review & Prioritize Strategic Plan**

* Discussion about the various new programs which offer tax credits to the landlords/owners. Perhaps creating a video so people can fill out their forms correctly and acquire new housing
* Improving access to the attorneys quicker and finding solutions to other barriers
* Working with King County’s renters’ commission
* Educating renters about the King County Housing Justice Project – Information campaign
* Helping renters learn about the new laws that have been passed in the last couple of years
* Next month the Department of Construction and Inspection will present
* Creating a newsletter that informs the public
* Figure out which things are Seattle initiatives versus State decisions – rent control is one
* ADA violations – highest priorities.
* Write the Mayor regarding extending the moratorium until the State of Emergency is over (Laurie, Arianna, Kim McGillivray, and Mac agreed to draft the letter).

**Commissioner Opportunity to Share**

* None

**Adjourn**

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