



## City of Seattle

Seattle Renters' Commission

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Mac Scotty Ray McGregor & Gina Owens, Co-Chairs

September 16, 2021

Re: *Seattle Renters' Commission Endorses the Rent Control Rally*

Dear Honorable Mayor Jenny A. Durkan and Members of the Seattle City Council:

We, the Seattle Renters' Commission, endorse the need for Rent Control in Seattle and The Rent Control Rally on September 18th. With Corporate landlords continuously raising rents even during a pandemic, we believe the only way to keep more essential workers and families from being priced out of living in the city they work in, is to have rent control. Corporate landlords have raised rents on average of 13.4 percent from January to May 2021, which is 2.5 times higher than the national average. This is outrageous and during a pandemic.

We support the grassroots movement to put pressure on our state legislators to change to restrictive law banning rent control which was put into place 1981. Several other cities have rent control, among them, New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. These cities have laws that typically restrict rent hikes to small amounts annually for existing residents. This would be a much-needed lifeline to many in Seattle. With an estimated 366,000 renters in Seattle, we believe with organizing we can accomplish this as other protections for renters, such as a 6 month notice for rent increases, which we also support.

Now that there are more renters in Seattle than homeowners, we believe we have to continue to fight for protections for the working-class renters in Seattle.

Seattle Renters' Commission

Cc: Andres Mantilla, Director, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods