

Seattle Renters' Commission 2018 Work Plan

Background

In the first quarter of 2018, the Commission spent considerable time at meetings devoted to developing its first work plan. The topics listed below reflect the Commission's identified priorities for 2018. The Commission brainstormed potential topics that would be important to the renters of Seattle, and that they wanted to discuss and examine further. Information was gathered from numerous city departments regarding potential topics for Commission consideration, and then prioritized among the 64 potential work items.

The work plan was designed to initially include several background presentations from City staff and others. This will be useful to provide information, baseline data, and the status of current activities for some of the topics the Commission wants to address.

As the Commission began to engage with their work, the Commission also identified as a priority receiving a training on how to apply a social justice and equity lens on the issues they will work on. This training should then be applied to all topics that come before the Commission, as opposed to creating a separate, discreet work plan topic.

As a means to use the time the full Commission has together, work groups were created based on the groupings of priority issues/topics identified by Commission members. The work groups can be used to dig deeper into topics, and in some cases, develop draft position statements for consideration by the full Commission. The work group meetings will occur outside of the regular Commission meetings. Each work group should have a minimum of two people. Commission members can serve on more than one work group.

Commission Work Groups Based on Priority Voting of Issues:

- Rent stabilization and/or Rent Control
- Housing Supply
- Renter Protection Laws
- Outreach Strategies for Engaging Renters

The following represents suggested agenda topics for the full Commission meetings through the end of 2018. The Co-Chairs may modify this schedule, based on emerging issues, as they develop agendas for each month's meeting.

March

- Review and Discuss Draft Work Plan
- Creation of Commission Work Groups
- Commission Recruitment

April

- Finalize work plan, discussion of presentation to Mayor and Council
- Economic Eviction Assistance – discussion with CM Sawant’s office
- Discussion of Outreach Strategies and Approaches for Engaging Renters
- Commission Recruitment

May

- Presentation from Office of Housing and Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) re housing supply, Renter Assistance for Building Purchases and Rental Voucher Assistance Program
- Social Justice and Equity Training
- Report on Status of Work Groups

June

- Presentation and Discussion about Rent Stabilization and/or Rent Control Options
- Discussion of Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) Recommendations before City Council
- Report on Status of Work Groups

July

- Presentation from Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection (SCDI)/Office of Civil Rights (OCR)/Tenants Union/Housing Justice Project re renter protections
- Presentation and Discussion on Affordability Portal
- Comments on Fort Lawton Housing Proposal

August

- Discussion of Lowering Barriers to renting for Homeless and Effectiveness of Rapid Rehousing
- Follow Up on Outreach Strategies and Approaches for Engaging Renters

September

- Follow Up on Renter Protections, Work Group Recommendations
- Follow Up on Housing Supply Issues, Work Group Recommendations

October

- Follow Up on rent stabilization and/or rent control, Work Group recommendations
- Discussion of potential state legislation

November

- Discussion of Commission positions on state legislation
- Work plan discussion for 2019
- Work Group follow up

December

- Finalize Work Plan for 2019
- Work Group follow up