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STATE OF WASHINGTON -- KING COUNTY

--SS.

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406965

No.

CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

**Affidavit of Publication**

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

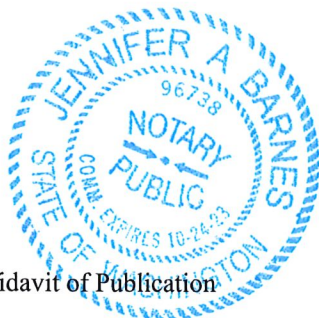
The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:VETO NOTICE CB120325

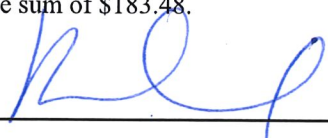
was published on

06/14/22


The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$183.48.



Affidavit of Publication

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Subscribed and sworn to before me on

06/14/2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary public for the State of Washington,  
residing in Seattle

# State of Washington, King County

## City of Seattle

City of Seattle

Notice of Mayor Bruce Harrell's  
Written Veto and Disapproval of  
Council Bill 120325, relating to

Rental Property Reporting  
Requirements.

June 10, 2022

Monica Martinez Simmons Seattle City  
Clerk

600 4th Avenue, 3rd Floor Seattle, WA  
98104

Dear Ms. Martinez Simmons:

Under my authority in Article IV, Section 12 of the Seattle City Charter, I have vetoed Council Bill 120325 requiring landlords to submit proprietary information about their rental units to a research institution, which was narrowly adopted by the City Council with a vote of five in favor and four opposed. I have the utmost respect for the legislation's sponsors who seek quality data to make policy decisions. However, I do not believe CB 120325 will achieve its stated aims; the reliability of the data's accuracy will be questionable according to the University of Washington; it will be costly to create with no funding source identified; and it will be difficult to implement in enough time to inform the update to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

James Young, Director of the University of Washington's Washington Center for Real Estate Research, outlined several reasons the legislation presents problems. In a letter to the members of the Council's Finance and Housing Committee on May 5, 2022 (see Attachment A), Director Young makes a convincing case that a mandatory system compelling landlords to provide commercially sensitive business information about the size, characteristics, price, and occupancy status of rental units is unlikely to yield reliable data.

Beyond problems with the approach, the likely financial costs associated with designing a mandatory reporting system are too high. City department staff provided estimates that the costs to stand up a new system and provide staffing support could be at least \$2 million and as much as \$5 million – money that could otherwise directly serve people suffering in the ongoing homelessness crisis. Meanwhile, the City is facing a significant budget shortfall, and I have asked Executive Departments to identify significant budget reductions for 2023 and 2024. I cannot support moving forward with an expensive new program that is unlikely to achieve its stated aims and has no clear source of funding to pay for it. It is also unlikely that the program as envisioned would be implemented in time to inform the issuance of the Comprehensive Plan's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which is due out next year for public review.

While I do not agree with this legislation's approach, I agree on the stated goal: we need reliable data. With that in mind, and relying on the wisdom of Director Young from the University of Washington, I am calling on private industry to establish a replacement to the now-shuttered Dupre + Scott Apartment Advisors, which was a trusted source that tracked rental housing locally.

I am committed to working with the City Council on the Comprehensive Plan update and balancing the need to accommodate more growth in the city while minimizing potential negative impacts. I look forward to continued productive engagement moving forward, and I appreciate all that our Councilmembers do in service to the people of Seattle.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Harrell Mayor of Seattle

Attachments:

- May 5, 2022 letter from James Young,  
Director, Washington Center for Real Estate  
Research

Publication ordered by Monica  
Martinez Simmons, City Clerk, pursuant  
to Seattle City Charter, Article IV,  
Section 12. Date of official publication  
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Washington, June 14, 2022.

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