

## SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\*

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>Executive Contact/Phone:</b>
Construction and Inspections	Kris Castleman / 684-5243	Melissa Lawrie / 684-5805

*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

- a. Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE related to The City of Seattle’s Emergency Relocation Assistance program, as administered by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections; and amending Section 22.202.060 of the Seattle Municipal Code.
  
- b. Summary and background of the Legislation:** This legislation increases the limit on the total dollar amount of unreimbursed emergency relocation assistance, advanced by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to low-income tenants. The current limit, set in 2003, is \$50,000; the proposed legislation increases the limit to \$200,000.

Sections 22.206.260 and 22.206.265 of the Seattle Municipal Code identify the circumstances under which SDCI may advance emergency relocation assistance to low-income tenants that move out of their housing unit pursuant to an emergency order. Section 22.206.260.G further specifies the requirements of property owners to reimburse SDCI for any emergency relocation assistance advanced.

On occasion, SDCI has encountered situations where the total dollar value of unreimbursed emergency relocation assistance approached or exceeded the \$50,000 limit. The three highest values of the total amount outstanding have been \$92,000, \$56,500, and \$45,500. This occurred when multiple tenant households were displaced from a building at once and/or the cumulative total of unreimbursed relocation payments outpaced reimbursement from property owners. Due to the urgent need of low-income tenants, who must move suddenly and with very little time, SDCI has proceeded to advance assistance to low-income tenants even when it meant exceeding the limit specified in the code. A more typical balance is under \$25,000. Most property owners make reimbursement payments to the City within a few days to a few weeks after the emergency relocation assistance has been advanced by the City. Payments are sometimes made in installments over a period of a few months. Occasionally, outstanding reimbursements are sent to collections and some have had to be written off in cases where the debt is not collectible.

The proposed change provides SDCI a more feasible limit to work within, so that emergency relocation assistance payments can be made to low-income tenants without violating the provisions of the Municipal Code.

## 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- a. Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? \_\_\_ Yes    X No

## 3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? \_\_\_ Yes    X No
- b. Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?  
No
- c. Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?  
No

## 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department? No
- b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation? No
- c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant? No
- d. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation? No
- e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? No
- f. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?

This does not result in a disproportionate or disparate impact for any customer, including customers from vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities. In fact, the change will enable SDCI to help more vulnerable or historically disadvantaged community members because they are often the demographic residing in housing units where conditions exist or occur to cause an emergency order to vacate and close.

- g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s).  
Not applicable.
- h. Other Issues:  
None.