

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

Department: Rent Program

Department Head: Nicolas Traylor

Phone: 620-6564

Meeting Date: June 26, 2023

Final Decision Date Deadline: June 26, 2023

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE: Members of the community have sent letters to the Rent Board and Rent Program staff members. Staff members recommend letters that do not pertain to a specific item on the Rent Board agenda be included as consent items for consideration by the Rent Board.

INDICATE APPROPRIATE BODY

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Surplus Property Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Powers Financing Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Standing Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety Public Services Standing Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Reuse Authority | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Rent Board</u> | |

ITEM

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation/Proclamation/Commendation (3-Minute Time Limit) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>CONSENT CALENDAR</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contract/Agreement | <input type="checkbox"/> Rent Board As Whole | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Application/Acceptance | <input type="checkbox"/> Claims Filed Against City of Richmond | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Video/PowerPoint Presentation (contact KCRT @ 620.6759) | |

RECOMMENDED ACTION: RECEIVE letters from community members regarding the Fair Rent, Just Cause for Eviction, and Homeowner Protection Ordinance, RMC 11.100 – Rent Program (Cynthia Shaw 620-5552).

AGENDA ITEM NO:
F-1.

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Cynthia Shaw

From: Ilona Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 9:55 PM
To: Rent Program; Sara Cantor; Cynthia Shaw; Karina Guadalupe; Elaine Dockens; Nicolas Traylor
Subject: Options?

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Given that I am unable to attend the Rent Board Meeting on June 12th, I must take the opportunity to protest Mr Traylor's actions at the most recent Board meeting and urge the members for vote for Option A.

First, Option A is inclusive of all our Board members and our community, which is largely Latinx. It is more fully a service to everyone in our community.

Second, Option B would be a significant decrease in service to renters and housing providers. Filing petitions to the rent board is already a very long and laborious process. Hearings often result in appeals which must be heard by the Board. Holding meetings every other month further delays the process. In housing, a delay is the same as a denial and should not be exacerbated by this decrease of services.

I would also like to point out that this information might have been readily available to the Board if the meeting had been conducted correctly. Public comment should always follow, not only the staff report, but also any discussion by the board and by the staff. At the meeting, public comment followed the staff report, but there was a lengthy discussion among the Board and the staff. Points were brought up, questions were asked, but no one could answer some of them and public input was therefore incomplete and improperly excluded.

I understand that this board is new and that these errors must be forgiven, but this Board must revisit this issue and seriously consider Option A.

Finally, Mr Traylor's conduct was reprehensible. He spent valuable time creating and presenting Options A and B to the board. Then during discussion, he stated on no uncertain terms that Option A was not possible, not even an option! How does this make sense? The only explanation that I can think of is that this was an attempt to appear to include Mrs Espinoza and give an illusion of presenting the Board with a choice without actually doing so. This smacks of manipulation. Mrs Espinoza and other Board members ask good questions and demand comprehensible answers. This is not a group that will simply rubberstamp everything that is put in front of them.

My request of the Board - vote for Option A
My advice to Mr Traylor - check your privilege

Sincerely
ilona Clark, RN, MSN, Richmond resident and housing provider

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Healing is figuring out how to coexist with the pain that will always live inside of you, without pretending it isn't there or allowing it to hijack your day. It is learning to confront ghosts and carry what lingers.

- *Suleika Jaouad*

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