

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

Department: Rent Program

Department Head: Nicolas Traylor

Phone: 620-6564

Meeting Date: June 17, 2024

Final Decision Date Deadline: June 17, 2024

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

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|---|---|--|--|---|
| ☐ City Council | ☐ Redevelopment Agency | ☐ Housing Authority | ☐ Surplus Property Authority | ☐ Joint Powers Financing Authority |
| ☐ Finance Standing Committee | ☐ Public Safety Public Services Standing Committee | ☐ Local Reuse Authority | ☒ Other: <u>Rent Board</u> | |

ITEM

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| ☐ Presentation/Proclamation/Commendation (3-Minute Time Limit) | | |
| ☐ Public Hearing | ☐ Regulation | ☒ Other: <u>CONSENT CALENDAR</u> |
| ☐ Contract/Agreement | ☐ Rent Board As Whole | |
| ☐ Grant Application/Acceptance | ☐ Claims Filed Against City of Richmond | |
| ☐ Resolution | ☐ 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:

G-4.

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From: Ilona Clark [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 5:14 PM

To: Sara Cantor <scantor@richmondrent.org>; Rent Program <rentprogram20@gmail.com>; Cynthia Shaw <cynthia_shaw@ci.richmond.ca.us>; Karina Guadalupe <kguadalupe@richmondrent.org>; Elaine Dockens <edockens@richmondrent.org>; Nicolas Traylor <nicolas_traylor@ci.richmond.ca.us>; Tomasa Espinoza <tespinoza@richmondrent.org>; Jim Hite <jhite@richmondrent.org>
Subject: Proposed budget FY 24/25

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The proposed budget for FY 24/25 includes an 18% fee-hikes for all units - \$41 more for overed units and \$23 more for partially covered, subsidized units. Fee hikes for public services should be taken seriously and not passed without consideration of the climate in which they exist.

Housing Providers alone pay these fees in Richmond. None may be passed to renters as is the case in other jurisdictions.

Rent increases have been limited to 3% or less. This happened in a climate of high inflation. Though inflation has come down, the limitations have not. Allowable rent increases this year may be as low as 1.5% as a result. Yet the cost of housing, including Rent Program fees, rise at a much higher rate.

The executive branch, consisting of Traylor and Tran, are asking for a 12.7% raise. This is on top of 14.2% last year and 13% the year before. When will the Board rein this in?

The projected raises for this executive branch from next year on into the future are a consistent 5%. Though this is still twice the current rate of inflation, it does seem more reasonable, Why not start the annual 5% raises this year?

According to the budget proposal, the reserve fund has reached 25%. Originally, the agreed upon amount was 18%. When did the Program staff and Board change this?

Finally, for the first time in this body's history, there are no other options being presented to the Board. Usually there are 2 or 3 options for different budgets with pros and cons to be discussed in a public forum.

Apparently, Program staff are demanding and expecting a rubber stamp for this insanity. Now is the time for you, as the Board, to ask yourselves if you wish to serve the community of renters and housing providers? or simply to serve this executive branch in letting our community get fleeced, year after year.

Please do not pass this budget proposal, limit raises to 5% at most, draw down the reserve fund to the negotiated level and have a real discussion about the future you want to see for Richmonds small housing providers and our renters.

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*