



CITY OF  
**PALO  
ALTO**

## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ACTION MINUTES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

6:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

\*\*\*BY VIRTUAL TELECONFERENCE ONLY\*\*\*

**Commissioners Present:** Eberle, Kraus, Regehr, Smith

**Absent:** Savage

**Council Liaison:** Council Member Stone

**Staff:** Minka van der Zwaag, Mary Constantino

### I. ROLL CALL

### II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 12, 2021

**MOTION:** Commissioner Kraus moved, seconded by Commissioner Regehr to approve the minutes of August 12, 2021.

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0**

### IV. BUSINESS

#### 1. Continued from HRC meeting held on August 12, 2021; Review and prioritization of proposed City-wide renter protections – Clare Campbell, Manager of Long-Range Planning and Lauren Bigelow, Partnership for the Bay's Future Fellow at City of Palo Alto

Separate motions were made for each of the renter protections considered.

**MOTION:** Commission Kraus moved, seconded by Chair Smith that the HRC recommends that Council consider limiting security deposits 1.5 times the rent (Draft Renter Project #5)

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0**

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**MOTION:** Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Kraus that the HRC recommends limiting landlords' ability to inquire about an applicant's criminal history. Staff seek Council recommendation regarding when in the lease-up process inquiries would be acceptable. (Draft Renter Project #6)

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Eberle moved, seconded by Chair Smith that the HRC recommends that the City (1) endorse the concept of Right to Counsel, (2) advocate to the County – to the Courts and Supervisor - that an eviction court be established, (3) support legislative efforts to fund Right to Counsel (AB1487). (Draft Renter Project #7)

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0**

**MOTION:** Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Kraus that the HRC recommends that the City not move forward with this policy at this time. (Draft Renter Project #8)

**MOTION PASSED: 3-1 Regehr No**

**MOTION:** Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Eberle that the HRC recommends that the City not move forward with this policy at this time. (Draft Renter Project #9)

**MOTION PASSED: 3-1Kraus No**

**MOTION:** Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Regehr that the HRC recommends to follow the priority order as laid out by staff.

1. Rental Survey Program
2. Expand Tenant Relocation Assistance
3. Eviction Reduction Program
4. Anti Rent-Gouging Policy
5. Security Deposit Limit
6. Fair Chance Ordinance
7. Right to Counsel
8. TOPA/COPA – Not recommended
9. Proactive Rental Inspection – Not recommended

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0**

**2. Recommendation from reviewers to the HRC for Human Services Resource Allocation Process (HSRAP) Second Funding Allocation for Fiscal Year 2022**

- A. Questions from the Commission to the Reviewers and Staff
- B. Oral communications
- C. Discussion and consideration of Reviewer's recommendations
- D. HRC recommendation to the City Council

**MOTION:** Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Regehr that the HRC accept the recommendation of the HSRAP Reviewers to the City Council.

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0**

**3. Update and next steps on items related to the FY21/22 workplan**

The Commissioners discussed their projects and next steps included in the FY21/22 workplan

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:39pm