

Equity Committee Meeting

Monday, May 24, 2021

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 PM, via Zoom

In attendance: Melissa Pappas, Ben Bauer, Mohit Kumar, Heather Humbert, John Mauer, Kathryn Murray, Jessica Willman Guest: Tram Hoang

Agenda

HENS Rent Stabilization Ordinance

- Time estimate: 20 minutes
- Details: Discussion and recommendation regarding support for the ordinance for rent stabilization. We currently act as a communications partner only. This language was not available when first presented to the Board. Tram Hoang will be joining us to answer questions.
- Links, resources: [Ordinance Petition Document](#)

Notes: Would allow rent increases up to [Saint Paul Ord. 193A Petition FINAL.pdf](#) 3% per year (based on a median increase over past 20 years). 12-month calendar year vs. multiple times in a calendar year. Flipping policy making on its head - wouldn't affect most people, but would make a difference for lower income/people of color. Exceptions include jump in property taxes, unplanned capital improvements, increases/decreases in number of tenants, change in number of rooms in a residence. Spoke with multiple landlords and heard about different scenarios.

Any oppositions or people speaking out against it? Larger property owners/housing associations have pushed back.

Next Steps: need volunteers to help collect 10,000 signatures by June 15. Must sign in person and be a registered voter.

Would this affect Section 8/public housing? Is this due to COVID-19 or just as general protections? Does not affect public housing - calculated differently. Knew for a long time that seniors, single mothers, BIPOC, etc were more likely to have rent hiked - made more relevant due to pandemic. Most people will not feel an effect.

Is it still practice, especially in artist quarters, they are only for about 10 years - will this affect them? Yes, this would help because even through the transfer of ownership, the 3% hold.

John moves to take ordinance to board as written. Ben second. **Unanimously approved.**

Camera Watch

- Time estimate: 20 minutes
- Details: Discussion on SPPD Camera Watch Initiative
- Links, resources: [Camera Watch Flyer](#), [YouTube Video](#)

Notes: Like that people coming together to fight crime, like not required to sign up, video could be helpful. At what point can you opt out? What if the video shows a minor crime that person doesn't deserve to get in trouble for is on a video with a more serious crime? Parameters are not clear and stated purpose is not included. Way too open ended - not enough detail to prove it is being used for what they say. Worry about unintentional fall out. D10 is discussing as well - question of if this is the process of building a police state database. Automatically having this information gives them pause. Seems odd. What about due process? Video can be damaging - preference for canvassing to build a narrative. Question of how much access they have? Could stickers on buildings make it unwelcome. Could it make those places a target? Social contract to make it a better place and want video to help trouble areas. There are a lot of people with trouble with police. They are our police and we have to make them better and work with them. Through an Equity lens - way too much leeway. Giving police more power. We would want more detail before the Council could support - time period, opting in/out, subpoena involved? Would have been great if they would have engaged prior to launching the program - would like more details. **Bring to Council with reservations. SPPD not asking for endorsement. Invite Patty Lammers to come to the Board meeting to address questions.** Thinking outside of our own neighborhood and how it might affect them.

i can totally see Heather's point and John's as well. I would agree on it if it is only used for a certain case and time period not randomly. in addition to zero involvement of an individual

I agree with this too. It should be for a specified time period only. (The way it is if the police or someone would get a subpoena for video footage of an incident.)

Equity Framework/Goals

- Time estimate: 30 minutes
- Details: Continue conversation and updates to Equity Framework, review Goals - set timeframe
- Links, resources: [Equity Framework](#), [Goals](#)

Helpful to see Land Acknowledgement in full before determining where the "policy" lies. Would be helpful to add to Unified Design Standards?

Community Meal Report

- Time estimate: 10 minutes
- Details: Report on how Union Flats Community Meal went
- Links, resources

Other Business