



City of Ann Arbor

Formal Minutes

Renters Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Thursday, February 20, 2025

5:30 PM

Electronic Meeting

Video & Audio Accessible: To listen or speak at public comment, call 877-853-5247 enter Meeting ID: 935-8080-1941 or to watch or speak at public comment join the meeting at: a2gov.org/RentersCommissionMeeting

1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ratcliff called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

2 ROLL CALL

All members of the Renters Commission attended the meeting electronically from Ann Arbor except Commissioner Chen who attended electronically from China.

Present: 12 - Jordan Else, Robert Droppleman, Rosanita Ratcliff, Dandan Chen, Travis Radina, Julia Goode, Kimberly Pitts, Michelle Liao, Barbara Wood, Hanna Larcinese, Chris Boddy, and Faith Redwine-Otieno

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Harrison

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Larcinese, seconded by Goode, approved unanimously as presented.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4-A 25-0326 Minutes of the January 16th Renters Commission Meeting

Attachments: 2-16-2025 Renters Commission Minutes.pdf

Moved by Chen, seconded by Goode, approved unanimously as presented and forwarded to the City Council.

5 FIRST GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - THREE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Public comment can be made by phone at: 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 Meeting ID: 935 8080 1941

Evelyn Robberts expressed opposition for the proposed green rental housing ordinance.

6 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**6-A 25-0328 Green Rental Housing Ordinance Update**

Attachments: Green Rental Housing_Regulations_Proposed Draft.pdf,
Green Rental Housing Checklist.pdf, Green Rental
Housing_Ordinance_Proposed Draft.pdf

7 NEW BUSINESS**7-A 25-0332 Presentation from Washtenaw County Health Department**

Kristen Schweighoefer from the Washtenaw County Health Department provided a presentation on the resources offered to renters by Washtenaw County.

7-B 25-0384 Update from Tenant Education Committee (TEC)

Attachments: TEC February Notes.pdf

7-C 25-0383 CityWise Discussion**MAIN MOTION:**

Moved by Goode, seconded by Wood, to approve the following:

Resolution Requesting the Ann Arbor City Council and the City Administrator to Explore a Municipally Managed Rental Platform as an Alternative to Private Listing Services

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Renters Commission is committed to

ensuring transparency, affordability, and tenant protections in Ann Arbor's rental market;

WHEREAS, private rental listing platforms, such as CityWise, prioritize data extraction and corporate growth over renter needs, affordability enforcement, and landlord accountability;

WHEREAS, the City of Ann Arbor possesses extensive rental data, including licensing records, code enforcement history, and affordability trends, and should maintain public control over this information rather than allowing private third-party platforms to extract, monetize, or restrict access to it; and

WHEREAS, Ann Arbor has an opportunity to be a leader in civic technology by developing a municipally managed rental search platform that prioritizes affordability tracking, tenant protections, and public transparency;

WHEREAS, national organizations such as Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Knight Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation have invested in civic innovation projects and may serve as potential funding partners for a pilot program;

WHEREAS, collaboration with local universities, Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs, Registered Apprenticeships, and workforce development initiatives can ensure that such a platform supports local talent pipelines, career pathways, and skill development in addition to serving as a rental market tool;

RESOLVED THAT THE ANN ARBOR RENTERS COMMISSION REQUESTS:

1. City Council and the City Administrator explore the feasibility of a municipally managed rental platform that would provide an affordable, publicly accountable alternative to private rental listing services.
2. City staff identify and pursue funding opportunities from national philanthropic organizations, innovation grants, and housing-focused foundations to support a pilot program.
3. City Council and the City Administrator engage with the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) CTE programs, and workforce training providers to explore opportunities for students and local apprentices to contribute to the

platform's development.

4. Any municipally managed rental platform include the following core protections for renters:

- Full pricing transparency, prohibiting concealed rental costs.
- Automatic integration of code enforcement and landlord violation history into rental listings.
- Genuine affordability tracking tools, not disclaimers or external redirects.
- Clear data privacy policies that prohibit the collection, resale, or monetization of renter behavior data.
- Alignment with Ann Arbor's existing tenant protection policies.

5. City staff issue a Request for Information (RFI) to explore best practices, technical requirements, and potential public-private collaboration models for a municipally managed rental platform.

6. City Council and the City Administrator work in coordination with the Renters Commission throughout the exploration, funding, and development process to ensure that tenant needs remain central to the platform's design.

7. This resolution shall be forwarded to City Council, the Mayor, the City Administrator, the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and all relevant stakeholders for consideration and action.

Moved by Larcinese, seconded by Wood, to postpone vote on the main motion to the March Renters Commission meeting.

Vote on Motion to Postpone:

Yeas: 2 - Chen, and Larcinese

Nays: 6 - Ratcliff, Goode, Pitts, Liao, Wood, and Boddy

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Harrison

Motion to postpone did not pass.

Vote on Main Motion:

Yeas: 8 - Ratcliff, Councilmember Radina, Goode, Pitts, Liao, Wood, Larcinese, and Boddy

Nays: 1 - Chen

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Harrison

Resolution approved.

- 7-D** [25-0333](#) Plan for 3/20 Renters Commission Meeting
- Q&A with Office of Sustainability and Innovations staff about the Green Rental Housing Ordinance
 - Presentation from Representative Carrie Rheingans and Ryan Bartholomew
 - Budget and Green Rental Housing Ordinance related resolutions

8 **REPORTS**

8-A **REPORT FROM CITY COUNCIL**

8-B **REPORT FROM COMMISSIONERS**

8-C **REPORT FROM HHSAB**

8-D **REPORT FROM STAFF LIAISON**

9 **SECOND GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - THREE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

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None.

10 **COMMUNICATION**

10-A [25-0336](#) Various Communication to the Renters Commission

Attachments: Rights and Duties Request_Redacted.pdf, Application Fee Feedback_Redacted.pdf, Bedbug Addendum_Redacted.pdf, Deposit Email_Redacted.pdf, Courthouse Square_Redacted.pdf, Water Bill Inquiry_Redacted2.pdf

Received and Filed

11 **ADJOURNMENT**

Commission public meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. These meetings provide opportunities for the public to address the Commission. All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed to: City Clerk's Office, 301 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Requests need to be received at least two (2) business days in advance of the meeting.

Renters Commission meeting agendas and packets are available from the Legislative Information Center on the City Clerk's page of the City's website (<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>). These meetings are typically broadcast on Ann Arbor Community Television Network Comcast 16 / AT&T 99 live at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM