



# City of Ann Arbor

## Formal Minutes

### Renters Commission

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

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Thursday, October 19, 2023

7:30 PM

Electronic Meeting

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Broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at [a2gov.org/watchCTN](http://a2gov.org/watchCTN)  
Public comment can be made by calling 877-853-5247 Meeting ID: 935 8080 1941 or via Zoom by joining the meeting at: [a2gov.org/RentersCommissionMeeting](http://a2gov.org/RentersCommissionMeeting)

**1**      **CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair Zackariah Farah called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM*

**2**      **ROLL CALL**

**All Commissioners attended the meeting from Ann Arbor, MI.**

**Councilmember Radina joined the meeting at 7:57 PM**

**Commissioner Rosanita Ratcliff joined the meeting at 8:03**

**Present:** 9 - Robert P Kelly, Zackariah Farah, Travis Radina, Cynthia Harrison, Jordan Else, Robert Droppleman, Rosanita Ratcliff, Julia Goode, and Kimberly Pitts

**Absent:** 6 - Dandan Chen, Lucy Peterson, Gayle Rosen, Jaymie Tibbits, Geoffrey Lowes, and Arthur Thomas

**3**      **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Rosanita, seconded by Julia, approved unanimously as presented at 8:03 PM after quorum was present.**

**4**      **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4-A**      **23-1752** Minutes of the September 21, 2023 Renters Commission Meeting

**Attachments:** 9-21-2023 Renters Commission Minutes.pdf

**Moved by Kelly, seconded by Goode, approved unanimously at 8:03**

**PM and forwarded to the City Council.**

**Yeas:** 7 - P Kelly, Farah, Landlord Advocate Else, Landlord Advocate Droppleman, Ratcliff, Goode, and Pitts

**Nays:** 0

**Absent:** 6 - Chen, Peterson, University of Michigan Student Legal Services Liaison Rosen, Tibbits, Lowes, and Thomas

**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

*No callers.*

**6 OLD BUSINESS**

**6-A [23-1749](#) Junk/Pre-Tenancy Fees**

**Attachments:** Approved 4-20-2023\_ Renters Commission Report- Waitlists for Rental Units in Ann Arbor.pdf, Email from John Reiser.pdf

*Councilmember Harrison reported that the ordinance draft is still in progress.*

**7 NEW BUSINESS**

**7-B Update: Green Fair Event**

**7-C [23-1750](#) Discussion: Landlords Asking Tenants to Act as Agents**

City staff has become aware that tenants are being “asked” to sign as an agent.

- Mostly independent non-local owners
- Rental Housing services advise against tenants signing as agents on the property registration form. (However, being there to let the inspector in is fine if, they are over 18. Especially, if the owner/agent can’t be there.)
- Tenants cannot contact Rental Housing to reschedule or cancel (only owner/agent can do this)

Also of note:

- Some owners/agents will charge the tenant if there is a no entry (not letting an inspector in) or if the tenant wants to reschedule. If the tenant wasn't made aware of the inspection by the owner, then they are not required to open the door.

**Attachments:** Chapter 105 - Agent.pdf

7-D [23-1751](#) Discussion/Motion: Municipal Electricity

**Attachments:** Draft Motion From Julia Goode.pdf, Proposed Motion-Updated for 11.16.2023.pdf

7-E **Discussion: Right to Counsel**

7-F **Discussion: Inspection Fines**

7-A **Report from Tenant Education Committee**

7-G [23-1768](#) Plan For November 16, 2023 Renters Commission Meeting

- Review Bylaws
- Review/Draft Work Plan for 2023-2024
- Review Meeting Date

**Attachments:** Renters Commission bylaws APPROVED 9-6-22.pdf, Renters Commission Work Plan Approved 12-15-2022.pdf, CTN Meeting Schedule 10-16-2023.pdf

## 8 **REPORTS**

8-A **Report from City Council**

8-B **Report from HHSAB Liaison**

8-C [23-1785](#) Report From Staff Liaison 10-19-2023

**Attachments:** Report from Staff 10-19-2023.pdf

8-D **Reports from Commissioners**

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

9-A Public comment can be made by phone at: 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 Meeting ID: 935 8080 1941 or via Zoom by joining the meeting at: [a2gov.org/RentersCommissionMeeting](https://a2gov.org/RentersCommissionMeeting)

*Attendee with the username Atara asked if the commission had any plans to educate tenants about problems that arise from shopping around for housing to early.*

**10** **COMMUNICATION**

**10-A** [23-1753](#) Various Communication to the Renters Commission

**Attachments:** Email from Courthouse Square Resident B Redacted 1.pdf, Email from Courthouse Square Resident B Redacted 2.pdf, Email from Courthouse Square Resident A Redacted2.pdf

**11** **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Kelly, seconded by Ratcliff, adjourned unanimously as presented.**

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](mailto: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