



REGULAR MEETING OF THE RENT BOARD OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

AGENDA
Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Link to Rent Board Meeting Agendas and Accompanying Materials:
www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3375/Rent-Board

Board Chair
Lauren Maddock

Board Vice Chair
Emma Gerould

Boardmembers
Alana Grice Conner
Virginia Finlay
(Vacant Position)

**ALL BOARDMEMBERS WILL PARTICIPATE VIA VIDEO OR
TELECONFERENCE**

***REFER TO PAGE 2 FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE
BY COMPUTER, MOBILE DEVICE, OR PHONE AS A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC***

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Contra Costa County and Governor Gavin Newsom have issued multiple orders requiring sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduction of person-to-person contact. Accordingly, Governor Gavin Newsom has issued executive orders that allow cities to hold public meetings via teleconferencing.

Both <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/> and
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3914/Richmond-Coronavirus-Info>
provide updated coronavirus information.

Public comment will be confined to items appearing on the agenda and will be limited to the methods provided below. DUE TO THE SHELTER IN PLACE ORDERS, and consistent with Executive Order N29-20, this meeting will utilize video/teleconferencing

only. The following provides information on how the public can participate in this meeting.

How to observe and/or participate in the meeting from home:

By Computer, Tablet, or Mobile Device:

Step 1: Tune in to the videoconference at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89511837378?pwd=d1ZRdXVocTJrbnBqd3pSTzZ5WGhHQT09>

Step 2: Enter the following password: rentboard

By Telephone:

Step 1: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 301 715 8592
or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656

Step 2: Webinar ID: 895 1183 7378

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89511837378>

How to make a Public Comment during the meeting:

Members of the public must submit a request to speak during the meeting by sending an email to Rent Board Clerk Cynthia Shaw at cynthia_shaw@ci.richmond.ca.us by **3:00 PM on Wednesday, July 15, 2020**. The request must include the following:

- (a) Your Name
- (b) Your Phone Number
- (c) The Item for which you wish to make a Public Comment

Requests for comments received via email during the meeting and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item is closed, will be accommodated as is reasonably possible and will be limited to a maximum of one to two minutes, depending on the number of commenters, as more fully described in the Rent Board meeting procedures below. The City cannot guarantee that its network and/or the site will be uninterrupted.

Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities

Upon request, the City will provide for written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services and sign language interpreters, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in and provide comments at/related to public meetings. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, auxiliary aid, service or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be emailed to cynthia_shaw@ci.richmond.ca.us or submitted by phone at (510) 620-5552. Requests made by mail to the Rent Program Office, Rent Board meeting, 440 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 200, Richmond, CA 94804 must be received at least two days before the meeting. Requests will be granted whenever possible and resolved in favor of accessibility.

Effect of Advisory on In-Person Public Participation

During the pendency of the Executive Order N-29-20, the language in this Advisory portion of the agenda supersedes any language below in the meeting procedures contemplating in-person public comment.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

The City of Richmond encourages community participation at public meetings and has established procedures that are intended to accommodate public input in a timely and time-sensitive way. As a courtesy to all members of the public who wish to participate in Rent Board meetings, please observe the following procedures:

Public Comment on Agenda Items: Persons wishing to speak on a particular item on the agenda shall file a speaker form with City staff PRIOR to the Rent Board's consideration of the item on the agenda. Once the clerk announces the item, only those persons who have previously submitted speaker forms shall be permitted to speak on the item. Each speaker will be allowed up to two minutes to address the Rent Board.

Public Forum: Individuals who would like to address the Rent Board on matters not listed on the agenda or on items remaining on the consent calendar may do so under Public Forum. All speakers must complete and file a speaker's card with City staff prior to the commencement of Public Forum. The amount of time allotted to individual speakers shall be determined based on the number of persons requesting to speak during this item. The time allocation for each speaker will be as follows: 15 or fewer speakers, a maximum of 2 minutes; 16 to 24 speakers, a maximum of 1 and one-half minutes; and 25 or more speakers, a maximum of 1 minute.

Conduct at Meetings: Richmond Rent Board meetings are limited public forums during which the City strives to provide an open, safe atmosphere and promote robust public debate. Members of the public, however, must comply with state law, as well as the City's laws and procedures and may not actually disrupt the orderly conduct of these meetings. The public, for example, may not shout or use amplifying devices, must submit comment cards and speak during their allotted time in order to provide public comment, may not create a physical disturbance, may not speak on matters unrelated to issues within the jurisdiction of the Rent Board or the agenda item at hand, and may not cause immediate threats to public safety.

City Harassment Policy: The City invites public comment and critique about its operations, including comment about the performance of its public officials and employees, at the public meetings of the City Council and boards and commissions. However, discriminatory or harassing comments about or in the presence of City employees, even comments by third parties, may create a hostile work environment, if severe or pervasive. The City prohibits harassment against an applicant, employee, or contractor on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity, age or veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law. In order to acknowledge the public's right to comment on City operations at public meetings, which could include comments that violate the City's harassment policy if such comments do not cause an actual disruption under the Council Rules and Procedures, while taking reasonable steps to protect City employees from discrimination and harassment, City Boards and Commissions shall adhere to the following procedures. If any person makes a harassing remark at a public meeting that violates the above City policy prohibiting harassment,

the presiding officer of the meeting may, at the conclusion of the speaker's remarks and allotted time: (a) remind the public that the City's Policy Regarding Harassment of its Employees is contained in the written posted agenda; and (b) state that comments in violation of City policy are not condoned by the City and will play no role in City decisions. If any person makes a harassing remark at a public meeting that violates the above City policy, any City employee in the room who is offended by remarks violating the City's policy is excused from attendance at the meeting. No City employee is compelled to remain in attendance where it appears likely that speakers will make further harassing comments. If an employee leaves a City meeting for this reason, the presiding officer may send a designee to notify any offended employee who has left the meeting when those comments are likely concluded so that the employee may return to the meeting. The presiding officer may remind an employee or any council or board or commission member that he or she may leave the meeting if a remark violating the City's harassment policy is made.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE RICHMOND RENT BOARD

AGENDA

5:00 PM

A. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

B. ROLL CALL

C. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

D. AGENDA REVIEW

E. PUBLIC FORUM

F. RENT BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| F-1. APPROVE the minutes of the June 17, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Richmond Rent Board. | <i>Cynthia Shaw</i> |
| F-2. RECEIVE the June 2020 Rent Program Monthly Report. | <i>Paige Roosa</i> |
| F-3. RECEIVE the Rent Program FY 2019-20 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report through June 2020. | <i>Paige Roosa</i> |

G. CONSIDERATION OF APPEALS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| G-1. Appeal Regarding Petition Number RC19-T048. Appellants appeal a Hearing Examiner's Decision that awarded Respondents a rent reduction for decreases in both space and services in the amount of \$9,117 and reduced Respondents' Maximum Allowable Rent (hereinafter, "MAR") by 22%. Specifically, the Hearing Examiner found that Respondents' Rental Unit contained enough mold in a bedroom to render that particular bedroom unusable for a period of three years. Consequently, the Hearing Examiner found that the Respondents' Space and/or Services were decreased and awarded Respondents \$8,269.72 | <i>Charles Oshinuga</i> |
|---|-------------------------|

in Excess Rent and reduced their MAR by 20%. Additionally, the Hearing Examiner found Appellant caused Respondents to suffer a Decrease in Services where Respondents' Rental Unit contained an inoperable oven, inadequate tub caulking, broken tub spout, and a dysfunctional shower wand. As a result, the Hearing Examiner awarded Respondents an additional \$847.28 in Excess Rent and further reduced their MAR by 2%. On appeal, Appellant challenges the scope of the Hearing Examiner's award, asserting that the Hearing Examiner erred and improperly exercised his discretion. ***This item was continued from June 17, 2020 meeting.***

- G-2.** Appellant appeals a Hearing Examiner's Decision that awarded Respondent Excess Rent in the amount of \$6,198.58, and awarded Excess Rent \$3,428.08 based on a decrease in both space and services. Specifically, the Hearing Examiner found that Respondent was an original occupant entitling her to a Base Rent of \$600, and the Appellant's failure to roll back Respondent's rent resulted in a rent overcharge in the amount of \$6,198.58. Moreover, the Hearing Examiner found multiple habitability issues existed in Respondent's Rental Unit, entitling her to an award of \$3,428.08. On Appeal, Appellant challenges the sufficiency of the evidence and contends Respondent is not an original occupant. *Charles Oshinuga*

H. REGULATIONS

- H-1.** ADOPT revised Chapter 2 Regulations, concerning the process whereby property owners may seek an exemption or determination of inapplicability of a dwelling unit from provisions of the Richmond Fair Rent, Just Cause for Eviction and Homeowner Protection Ordinance. *Paige Roosa*

I. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

J. ADJOURNMENT

Any documents produced by the City and distributed to a majority of the Rent Board regarding any item on this agenda will be made available at the Rent Program Office located on the second floor of 440 Civic Center Plaza and will be posted at www.richmondrent.org.