



REGULAR MEETING OF THE RENT BOARD OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING
440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804**

**AGENDA
Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

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

Board Chair
Virginia Finlay

Board Vice Chair
VACANT

Boardmembers
Alana Grice Conner
Carole Johnson
Michael Vasilas

NOTICE: SEATING IN THE CHAMBERS WILL BE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 39 PEOPLE AND MASKS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.

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. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, auxiliary aid, interpretation service or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be emailed to cyntha_shaw@ci.richmond.ca.us and rent@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.

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

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| F-1. | APPROVE the minutes of the February 15, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Richmond Rent Board. | <i>Cynthia Shaw</i> |
| F-2. | RECEIVE the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Monthly Activity Report through February 2023. | <i>Cynthia Shaw</i> |
| F-3. | RECEIVE the Rent Program FY 2022-23 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report through February 2023. | <i>Fred Tran</i> |
| F-4. | APPROVE late fee waiver(s) for March 2023 pursuant to Regulation 425. | <i>Fred Tran</i> |

G. RENT BOARD AS A WHOLE

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| G-1. | APPROVE the City Council's REQUEST for the Rent Program to provide policy recommendations related to mitigating the impact of the termination of Richmond's Eviction Moratorium and DIRECT staff to present their findings and recommendations first to the Rent Board for approval and then to the City Council for consideration and possible adoption. | <i>Shiva Mishek,
Chief of Staff for Mayor
Eduardo Martinez</i> |
| G-2. | RECEIVE oral update on Rent Board appointments. | <i>Nicolas Traylor</i> |

H. CONSIDERATION OF APPEALS

H-1. Both parties appeal only the portion of the Hearing Examiner's Decision that awarded Respondents/Tenants \$270.76, due to a mice problem impacting their Rental Unit. Specifically, the Hearing Examiner found that Respondents/Tenants met their burden in demonstrating that mice impacted their Rental Unit for a total of twenty-eight (28) days. Appellant/Landlord contends the Hearing Examiner erred because "there was zero hard evidence on rodent problem. We had at least 5 people checked [sic] this issue, including handymen, manager, exterminator [sic], no one saw anything related to mice. No other units in the same building had mice problems." On the other hand, Respondents/Tenants argue the Hearing Examiner should have awarded a greater amount of restitution because "the mice issue was a huge inconvenience that [they] dealt with for almost 2 years...[That they] have provided a lot of proof and evidence that seems [sic] to be overlooked. 28 days doesn't even begin [sic] to cover everything we've had to go through dealing with this situation. The Summation of both parties appeal challenges whether the Record contains substantial evidence to support the Hearing Examiner's decision.

Charles Oshinuga

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.