

Minutes
St. Paul Rent Stabilization Task Force
February 22, 2022

Members present: Katherine Banbury, Tony Barranco, Jay Benanav, Clinton Blaiser, Monica Bravo, Carolyn Brown, Scott Cordes, Phillip Cryan, Arline Datu, Khayree Duckett, Kelly Elkin, Tou Fang, Thomas Godfrey, Robbie Grossman, Tram Hoang, Myisha Holley, Rich Holst, Mya Honeywell, Abdiaziz Ibrahim, Rawnsion Ivanoff, Nathaniel Khaliq, Chue Kue, Bill Lindeke, Carin Mrotz, Tom Nelson, Dalton Outlaw, Kevin Pranis, B. Rosas, Tony Sanneh, Katheryn Schneider, Julie Schwartz, Emmanuel Speare, D'Angelos Svenkeson, Chris Tolbert, Marcus Troy, J. Kou Vang, Clara Ware.

Members not present: Cecile Bedor, Malik Davis, Jessica Fowler, Nene Matey-Keke

City of St. Paul staff present: Tara Barenok, Kirstin Burch, Jon Grebner, David Gorski, Ian Walsh, Doua Yang.

CURA staff present: C. Terrence Anderson, Tony Damiano, Edward Goetz, Malik Holt-Shabazz, Trupti Storlie.

1. Call to order

- The meeting was called to order at 1:00. The meeting was virtual.

2. Agenda

- Housekeeping
- Welcome from Mayor Carter
- Introductions
- Schedule
- Expectations
- Ground Rules

3. Housekeeping

- Reviewed basic functions of Zoom for active participation.
- Meetings are public: observers are able to watch, but not interact.
- Meetings are recorded.

- **Decision:** Recordings will be posted on the City's webpage.

4. Welcome from Mayor Carter

- Thanks to co-chairs, commission members, facilitators,
- Anticipates this to be a challenging conversation, but also believes that we can come together to create a policy that enables people in the community to live with sustainability and dignity.
- Currently, the city is navigating a three-part process
 - Staff working to prepare for implementation of the ordinance that the voters passed this fall. May 1 is the implementation date.

- Work with the city council to establish an ordinance to clarify an exemption for new housing construction.
- Stakeholder-informed process of determining the medium- and long-term form of rent stabilization.
- Calls for a spirit of constructive dialogue.
- The question of “if St. Paul should have rent stabilization” has already been decided, the question of “how” is before us.
- Wants taskforce to think about a permanent iteration of this group
 - to access and leverage a wider set of expertise and backgrounds as the City implements rent stabilization in the future.

5. Review of the Commission’s charge

- “How”, not “if”
 - How should rent stabilization operate in St. Paul?
 - What characteristics should it have?
- Medium to long-term perspective
 - Separate conversations are occurring about implementation of the voter-approved initiative.
- A process of learning and deliberation leading to a set of considerations for the City to move forward.

6. Expected timeline

- Two phases of the task force’s work.
 - Part one: Learning together, weekly meetings
 - February 22 to April 5
 - Part two: Deliberations
 - April 12 to June 15
- Final report due to the Mayor's Office June 24.

7. Introductions

- All in attendance introduced themselves.
- The Commission’s co-chairs are:
 - Phillip Cryan: West Side resident, elected leader of Service Employees International Union (SEIU), represents about 4500 people,
 - Tony Sanneh: St. Paul resident, property owner in St. Paul, including an apartment building. Runs a nonprofit for underserved and people of color.

8. Open Discussion

- Members discussed the schedule for the task force and how it related to the implementation of the ballot initiative.

9. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.