



Tenant Right to Organize Presentation

City Council Work Session

September 16, 2025



Purpose of Tenant Right to Organize

- Establishes tenants the right to organize.
- Purpose is to empower renters to collectively advocate for better living conditions, fair treatment, and stronger housing protections without fear of retaliation from landlords.



Administration and Enforcement

- City Manager would designate an administrator of the program.
- Administrator would establish rules to implement, administer and enforce. This would include the creation of a complaint and investigation process.



Tenant Establishes or Participates in a Tenant Organization if

- Contacts other tenants for organizing.
- Post or distribute information related to tenant organizing.
- Meets with tenants or organizations at the premise.
- Invite tenant organizers to assist with organizing.
- Conducting door-to-door surveys.
- Participation is voluntary.



Interference Prohibited

Landlord may not intentionally interfere with rights established.

- Cannot hinder organizing activities.
- Obstruct the use of premises for organizing.
- Interfere with tenant communication.
- Block posting and distribution.
- Prevent meetings and invitations.



Landlords Can

- Contact tenants related to concerns.
- Specify which bulletin boards in common areas can be used.
- Remove discriminatory information.
- Request tenant or guests comply with the conduct outlined in an existing lease.
- Request the removal of litter caused by the distribution of material.
- Exercise reasonable limitation on time, manner, and place of activities.



Tenant Conduct and Lease Compliance

- Organizing rights do not protect lease breaches.
- Activities must comply with lease and laws.



Offenses and Penalties

- Violations are misdemeanors. Charges would be submitted to City Court. No arrests could be made as this is not enforced by a licensed peace officer.
- Violations do not limit tenant or landlord remedies.



Summary

- Empowers tenants for collective interests.
- Balances tenant rights and landlord prerogatives.
- Provides clear definitions and protections for both tenants and landlords.
- Encourages lawful tenant organizing and communication between landlord and tenants.



Next Steps

- Seek City Council direction on proposed ordinance.
- Bring back an ordinance for first reading on October 8th council meeting.