

Madalyn Letellier

From: Michael Goodnow [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 9:41 PM
To: All City Council; Public Comments
Cc: Lance Davis; Ben Ewen-Campen; Mayor; Anti-Displacement Task Force
Subject: Please Strengthen Rent Stabilization HRP

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Councilors,

My name is Michael Goodnow, and I am a renter at [REDACTED], Ward 3.

I am writing to say that ***the rent stabilization home rule petition (HRP) that has been passed out of the Legislative Matters Committee isn't strong enough*** and to ask you to ***please improve it before passage***.

Specifically, there are two improvements that I ask you to seek a vote on in the full Council:

- I would like to see Section 4 expanded to include details of the relocation plans. Given the fact that this HRP introduces new incentives for landlords to evict their tenants (resetting rent), it is too dangerous to leave the tenant relocation payments to another time.
- **No exemption for owner-occupied buildings.** I personally live in an owner-occupied building (along with a large portion of the renters in Somerville), and have received rent increases of 12% and 13% over the last two years. This HRP already contains a dispensation for landlords who face major tax increases, make major property improvements, or are vulnerable seniors. The owner-occupied building exemption significantly weakens this HRP and does not need to exist.

Please do everything in your power to advance a strong rent control HRP that is worthy of Somerville and can help continue to grow the movement for rent control and true housing justice in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,
Michael Goodnow

Madalyn Letellier

From: Amy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:41 PM
To: All City Council; Public Comments
Subject: Rent Control Now! Vote YES on Home Rule Petition

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To the City Council:

As a Somerville renter, I urge you to vote YES on the rent control home rule petition.

I am a middle-income tenant with no dependents and even for me, this city is quickly becoming unaffordable. Rents are out of control, placing undue burden on tenants already struggling with student loan debt, stagnant wages, and rampant inflation. And the fact that I am struggling here means that this city is near-unlivable for the working class residents who make up the fabric of our city, from its history to its culture and economy. Without rent control, countless residents who make Somerville what it is will be priced out.

Tenants deserve protection from greedy, opportunistic landlords, and Somerville has an opportunity to show other cities and towns that it's possible to have strong, local rent control. Vote YES on the home rule petition NOW.

- Amy Pollard
Teele Square resident, 02144