



Rent Stabilization Board

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2017

TO: Rent Board Commissioners

FROM: Rent Board Chair Selawsky

SUBJECT: Proposed Process to Nominate Candidates for Consideration to Replace Outgoing Rent Board Commissioner Harr

Background:

Under the City Charter, the Board must select a replacement to complete the time remaining (through November 30, 2018) on Rent Board Commissioner Katherine Harr's term. At our February 6, 2017 meeting we voted to form an Ad Hoc Committee to vet potential candidates and make a recommendation to the full Board at our March 20, 2017 meeting. This committee will speak with candidates and review their resumes.

As we discussed at the February 6, 2017 meeting, to qualify as a potential replacement Commissioner on the Board, a candidate must be a resident of Berkeley and a registered voter. (City Charter, Article XVII, Section 121(1).)

The Board also voted to hold a special meeting on February 27, 2017, so that each Commissioner is able to nominate a maximum of two candidates for the Ad Hoc Committee to more thoroughly vet. The Board did not discuss how these candidates will be nominated.

Recommendation:

I propose that the Board simultaneously nominate candidates by written ballot following public comment and after Board discussion and questions on the action item. Each Commissioner will be given a piece of paper with his/her name on top and two slots to nominate candidates below.

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Example below:

Commissioner [NAME]

1. _____
Name of Replacement Candidate for Ad Hoc Committee to vet

2. _____
Name of Replacement Candidate for Ad Hoc Committee to vet

Each Commissioner will enter the names of his/her top two preferred candidates (not necessarily ranked) for the Ad Hoc Committee to interview. After collecting the provided sheets of paper, Board Secretary Aimee Mueller will read the names aloud, and the Ad Hoc Committee will further consider those nominated.

This gives each Commissioner equal opportunity to vote on potential replacement candidates at the same time. For nominations, I believe this is more fair than the standard voting process, because each Commissioner is able to register his/her preference at the same time with equal weight with no individual Board Member having greater influence based on when they nominate.

Alternatively, the Board may choose to follow its standard alphabetical roll call voting procedure to make nominations.