

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division

THRU: Council Member Mary Sheffield, Council President

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: May 2, 2023

RE: Senior Rent Protections

With the passage of the Right to Counsel, low-income residents facing eviction can now be provided legal representation. While there is still a way to go, there are still unprotected classes such as our seniors when it comes to dealing with landlords and some of the exuberant fees associated with renting in the City.

Please provide a legal opinion on the following questions concerning Senior Rent Protections:

- 1) Are there any rent protections laws in place for seniors?
- 2) Are there any municipalities that have passed laws that protect seniors?
- 3) Residents have stated that developers promised that their current rent would not increase. Is there a way to guarantee these promises?
- 4) Is there a way to regulate application fees for seniors to account for their modified income and to ensure they are not predatory? If not, what are ways we can limit application fees?

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Cc: Honorable Detroit City Council
Louise Jones, City Clerk's Office
Malik Washington, City Council Liaison