



Presented by the City Attorney's Office
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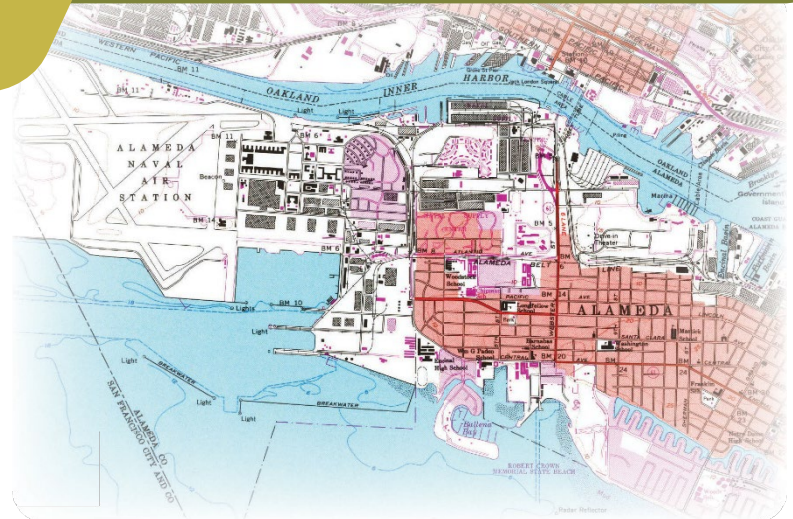
ALAMEDA RENT PROGRAM

Monthly
Report

September
2023

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NEWS & NOTES

- As of Sept. 1, 2023, late penalties have been assessed on unpaid program fees.
- Also on Sept. 1, 2023, a new Annual General Adjustment (AGA) of 2.9% went into effect through Aug. 31, 2024.
- In September, the Rent Program mailed 911 letters to landlords who had either not paid program fees, failed to register their property or both.
- On Oct. 25, 2023, City Council will hold a special session to vote on revisions to the Capital Improvement Policy (CIP)



OUTREACH

Staff serves individuals in the community Monday through Friday via telephone, email, Zoom, and in-person appointments. Informational workshops are offered twice monthly.

Upcoming Informational Workshops

- Tuesday, Oct 7, 6pm - Zoom
- Thursday, Nov 2, 2pm - City Hall West
- Tuesday, Nov 14, 6pm - Zoom

	PERSONALIZED SERVICE		INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOPS	WEBSITE	
	Individuals Contacted	Total Inquiries	Attendees	Unique Users	Total Sessions
SEPTEMBER 2023	412	684	7	2,287	3,397
YEAR-TO-DATE	3,673	7,071	69	22,406	33,386

REGISTRATION

The online Rent Registry is available for landlords and property managers to submit, verify, and update registration information; pay the annual program fee; and more. Staff continues to work with landlords to update information in the registry and process submissions.

	SEPT 2023	YTD
Properties Submitting Late Registration*	5	53
Property Change in Ownership Processed	5	162
Documentation Demonstrating that property is Exempt from Regulation	9	103
Requests to Exempt Unit from Annual Program Fee	23	245
Properties Submitting Payment of Annual Fees**	189	3,265

*As of September, 1, 2023, approximately 94.9% of Alameda rental units and 90.9% of rental properties have completed registration.

**As of September, 1, 2023, approximately 77.8% of Alameda rental properties had submitted payment of annual program fees for the FY23-24 fiscal year

AGA RENT INCREASES

Landlords who have registered their rental properties and paid the annual program fee are entitled to one rent increase every 12 months limited by a percentage cap, known as the Annual General Adjustment or AGA.

*The AGA for the period from September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024, is **2.9%***

“BANKED” RENT INCREASES

The Rent Ordinance allows landlords who choose not to raise the rent for a full 12 months, or choose to raise the rent by less than the AGA, to “bank” those unused amounts. The Ordinance requires any landlord using “banked” amounts to file a copy of the notice with the Rent Program

	SEPT 2023	YTD
Current Rent Updated on Unit	295	2,642
“Banked” Rent Increase Filed	16	451
Updated Unit Info showing an Invalid Rent Increase	40	434

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Landlords may apply to pass the cost of certain substantial improvements, amortized over time, on to tenants. In addition, landlords must file a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) whenever a tenant must be temporarily relocated or a tenancy terminated because of the work associated with qualifying capital improvements. *Note: On June 6, 2023, City Council approved a temporary moratorium on CIPs for properties with 25 or more rental units.*

	New Submissions	CIP Review Status			
		Under Review	Approved	Denied	Total
SEPT 2023	0	0	0	0	0
YTD	3	2	1	1	4

RENT REVIEW & PETITIONS

Multi-family units built prior to February 1995 are subject to a cap on the annual amount of rent increase, known as the Annual General Adjustment (AGA). Landlords may petition for an upward adjustment in the rent, and tenants may petition for a downward adjustment.

In addition, tenants and landlords may request that staff conduct a review of:

- I. The calculation of the maximum allowable rent allowed by the AGA
- II. The base rent and/or housing services included with base rent as reported by the landlord
- III. Previous or pending rent increase notices to determine if they complied with all rent ordinances and regulations

Staff will work with the landlord to correct registration errors. If the review shows the tenant has been paying more than the maximum allowed by the AGA, staff will direct the landlord to reset the rent and refund the overpayment.

If the tenant received an invalid notice that is not yet effective, staff will direct the landlord to rescind the notice. Annually, the Rent Program sends letters to the landlord and tenant informing them of the maximum allowable rent and providing a deadline by which to file review.

LANDLORD SUBMISSIONS		
	SEP 2023	YTD
Petition for Upward Adjustment	0	1
Request For Staff Review	0	3
Rent Increase greater than 10%	0	0
TENANT SUBMISSIONS		
	SEP 2023	YTD
Petition for Downward Adjustment	3	21
Request for Staff Review	2	43
TOTALS	5	68

HEARING OUTCOMES		
	SEP 2023	YTD
Upward Rent Adjustment	0	0
Downward Rent Adjustment	0	3
Petition Denied	0	3
Petition Withdrawn	0	5
Pending	3	11
TOTALS	3	22

STAFF REVIEW OUTCOMES		
	AUG 2023	YTD
No Violation	0	7
Registry Error Corrected	0	6
Rent Reset & Tenant Refunded	0	9
Invalid Notice Rescinded	0	4
Request Withdrawn	0	8
Pending Review	0	12
TOTALS	0	46

TERMINATION OF TENANCY

The Rent Ordinance prevents landlords from terminating a tenancy except for certain allowable grounds and requires a relocation payment in cases where the termination is not the fault of the tenant. Terminations based on these “no fault” grounds must be filed with the Rent Program. Submissions may be “Withdrawn” due to a deficiency with the ordinance or because a landlord chooses to rescind the notice.

OMI = Owner Move-In

WRM = Withdrawal from the Rental Market

TERMINATION SUBMISSIONS					
	OMI	WRM	Other	Withdrawn	TOTALS
SEPT 2023	2	0	0	0	5
YTD	21	5	0	13	39

BUYOUT AGREEMENTS

A buyout agreement is a written agreement between a landlord and a tenant, by which a tenant agrees to vacate, usually in return for money. The Rent Ordinance affords protection to tenants who are offered buyout agreements. Buyout Agreements must be filed with the Rent Program. Staff review submissions to ensure that tenants have been advised of their rights. An agreement that does not satisfy all requirements of the rent ordinance is not effective, and the tenant may rescind the deficient agreement at any time.

No Buyout Agreement submissions were filed in September. Of the 17 received in 2023, the average value has been \$19,424 with an average length of tenancy at 9 years.

BUYOUT SUBMISSIONS				
	Active	Deficient	Rescinded	TOTALS
SEPT 2023	0	0	0	0
YTD	13	4	0	17

MONITORING OF RENTAL UNITS

Certain restrictions are imposed on rental units after a tenancy is terminated based on grounds for which the tenant is not at fault. These restrictions apply regardless of a change in ownership. On an annual basis, program staff initiates monitoring of the unit to verify compliance with the restrictions while they remain in effect. These annual monitoring cases remain “ongoing” until staff receives sufficient documentation from the property owner.

	Owner Move-In		Withdrawal from the Rental Market		TOTAL UNITS
	Case Initiated	Ongoing	Case Initiated	Ongoing	
SEPT 2023	0	2	0	5	7
YTD	41		53		94