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ALAMEDA RENT PROGRAM

Monthly Report

May 2025

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NEWS & NOTES

- The Rent Program announced the FY 2025-26 program fees: \$170 for fully regulated units and \$114 for partially regulated units. Notification letters were mailed to 2,322 landlords and property managers of fully regulated properties, informing them that the annual registration period opened on June 1 and that both registration and payment are due by August 31, 2025.
- A program newsletter was distributed to over 3,200 Rent Program email subscribers, providing details on the new fee amounts and instructions for completing registration for the upcoming cycle.
- The Rent Program also announced the new Annual General Adjustment (AGA) of 1.0%, effective September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026. This cap is based on 70% of the percentage change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the 12-month period ending April 2025.



OUTREACH

Staff serves individuals in the community Monday through Friday via telephone, email, Zoom, and inperson appointments. Informational workshops are offered twice monthly. <u>Upcoming Informational Workshop</u> Tuesday, Jun 17th, 6pm - Zoom Thursday, July 10th, 2pm – City Hall West Tuesday, July 22nd, 6pm - Zoom

	PERSONALIZED SERVICE		INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOPS	WEBSITE	
	Individuals Contacted	Total Inquiries	Attendees	Unique Users	Total Sessions
MAY 2025	403	725	0	3,008	4,612
YEAR-TO- DATE	1,842	3,450	11	14,029	21,752



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.

	MAY 2025	YTD
Properties Submitting Annual Registration*	23	122
Property Change in Ownership Processed	10	33
Documentation Demonstrating that Property is Exempt from Regulation	2	20
Requests to Exempt Unit from Annual Program Fee	2	13
Properties Submitting Payment of Annual Fees**	23	102

*As of June 1, 2025, approximately 88.0% of fully regulated rental units and 84.3% of fully regulated rental properties had submitted annual registration. **As of June 1, 2025, approximately 88.3% of Alameda rental properties had submitted payment of annual program fees for the FY24-25 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, 2024, to August 31, 2025, is **2.7%**

"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

	MAY 2025	YTD
Current Rent Updated on Unit	104	938
"Banked" Rent Increase Filed	15	168
Updated Unit Info showing an Invalid Rent Increase	31	214

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 because of the work associated with qualifying capital improvements. *Note: On December 19, 2023, the Alameda City Council approved a revised policy effective January 19, 2024.*

	New	CIP Review Status			
	Submissions	Under Review	Approved	Denied	Total
MAY 2025	0	0	1	0	0
YTD	1	0	4	0	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.

LANDLORD SUBMISSIONS

	MAY 2025	YTD
Petition for Upward Adjustment	0	0
Request For Staff Review	0	0
Rent Increase greater than 10%	0	0

TENANT SUBMISSIONS

	MAY 2025	YTD
Petition for Downward Adjustment	3	8
Request for Staff Review	4	12
TOTALS	7	20

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

- 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.

HEARING OUTCOMES

	MAY 2025	YTD
Upward Rent Adjustment	0	0
Downward Rent Adjustment	0	4
Petition Denied	0	0
Petition Withdrawn	0	0
Pending	3	4
TOTALS	3	8

STAFF REVIEW OUTCOMES

	MAY 2024	YTD
No Violation	0	0
Registry Error Corrected	1	1
Rent Reset & Tenant Refunded	0	2
Invalid Notice Rescinded	0	0
Request Withdrawn	0	0
Pending Review	3	9
TOTALS	4	12



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

BUYOUT SUBMISSIONS				
	Active	Deficient	Rescinded	TOTALS
MAY 2025	1	0	0	1
YTD	7	2	0	9

TERMINATION SUBMISSIONS WRM OMI Other Withdrawn TOTALS MAY 2 2 0 0 0 **YTD** 7 4 1 4 16

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.

*One buyout agreement submitted in May had a value of \$30,000 and length of tenancy at 26 years

MONITORING OF RENTAL UNITS

Certain restrictions are imposed on rental units after a termination of tenancy 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	TOTAL	
	Case Initiated	Ongoing	Case Initiated	Ongoing	UNITS
MAY 2025	1	1	0	0	2
YTD	25		1	1	36

