



RSC Work Products

Purpose of the RSC

When identifying possible work products, it's crucial to keep the purpose of the commission in mind. RSC work products must align with the core responsibilities that have been tasked to the commission. The RSC's purpose, as found in the bylaws, is listed below:

The City of Portland's Rental Services Commission is tasked with making recommendations to the City Council, the Mayor, and the Director of the Housing Bureau regarding legislative changes to City Code that concern rental housing equity in the following areas:

- *Landlord-Tenant Policy Initiatives*
- *Landlord-Tenant Regulation and Programs*
- *Budget*
- *Community Involvement*

The Rental Services Commission (RSC) serves as the primary public forum for discussion of rental housing law and regulation, and renter-owner programs and services in the City of Portland. For that reason, the RSC holds space for public testimony at every meeting of the full body, as well as host annual listening sessions.

Work Products

During the development of the Work Plan, RSC commissioners will identify possible work products for each topic/issue being discussed. The work product is the output of the RSC, requiring a vote of approval from the majority of the commission in order to proceed.

Below, you will find examples of possible work products that the RSC can choose to engage in.

Policy/Programmatic Recommendations

Policy recommendations have historically been the primary work products produced by the RSC. Past topics include:

- Anti-Harassment Protections
- COVID Rental Housing Policy and Program
- Mandatory Relocation Assistance

- Rent Assistance Policy Letter
- Fair Housing

Procedurally, once a majority of the commission has voted to approve a topic, a letter is drafted by PHB staff and the executive committee, which is then voted on by the entire body. If approved, the letter is then forwarded to City Council for review. The letter contains the recommendations agreed upon by the commissioners, as well as background information on the topic.

Currently, there is no established protocol for following-up on recommendations.

Advocacy

As a body, the Rental Services Commission can choose to engage in advocacy efforts. Some possible activities include:

- Providing public testimony – approved by the body
- Monitor the legislative process and provide support/opposition on an issue, if approved by the body
- Provide expertise to City Council and the mayor

These activities can be assigned to certain members, to a sub-committee, or be the responsibility of the commission at large.

Public Participation

The RSC has an obligation, as a public body, to be accessible to the public. Public testimony and sentiment can influence the RSC agenda and the decisions of voting members. Each year, the RSC hosts a Listening Session, wherein the public is invited to provide testimony on the pressing issues affecting their lives.

We are currently in the process of deciding upon a date for the 2023 Listening Session. However, if ever the need arises, the RSC has the ability to hold an emergency Listening Session to get public input.