

I would just like to say a couple of things about changing from a commission to a single hearing officer in managing our rent control ordinance.

I prefer the option of maintaining a 5 member commission rather than relying on one individual to make decisions about rent control issues....however.....I am so aware of the difficulty of finding appropriate candidates to fill those 5 seats. It is a taxing and thankless job and can require a substantial amount of study just to become familiar with the ordinance even when no challenges arise. The amount of study and time can increase exponentially, for example, in the event of a request for a special rent adjustment, etc.... Way beyond what most volunteers are willing to devote.

I would like to see a discussion focused on considering other means by which to encourage people to serve.

There is currently an arrangement for a small stipend to be paid to each of the commissioners per meeting. I believe that the cost of those stipends is shared between the park owners and the residents. Maybe it would be feasible to increase that amount to a more realistic level and continue to fund it in the same way.

This is just one suggestion that could be briefly explored before giving up on the idea of the commission. Have there been any attempts to find out how other communities have dealt with this perplexing issue? Surely someone else can come up with some other ideas?

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