



MEMO

Item No. 44

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Deb Schildroth, Assistant City Manager
Date: May 26, 2020
Subject: Campus and Community Commission Report – Landlord/Tenant Relations

In March 2019, the City Council directed the Campus and Community Commission (CCC) to work on investigating landlord/tenant relations. This particular issue is an element of CCC's work on community inclusivity. Students had initially raised the lease gap issue and additional topics followed such as being a good tenant, how to address concerns with landlords, and how to effectively resolve disputes. Based on this, Council provided CCC with the following tasks:

- a. What information do students wish they knew about tenant responsibilities before renting?
- b. Where do rent informational resources exist?
- c. Hosting a joint discussion among student renters and landlords to discuss these concerns
- d. Reporting to the City Council regarding assessment and outcome of the discussion

Campus and Community Commission has prepared the attached report and will be available at the May 26 Council meeting to discuss it. The Council is now being asked to consider the next steps:

1. Landlord/Tenant Relations report - After reviewing and discussing the report, Council must decide whether to accept the report or if this issue requires further study by the CCC. If the Council feels further study is necessary, it should identify what questions the Commission should work on to answer.
2. Direction to City Staff - If Council accepts the Landlord/Tenant Relations report, it must decide what next steps to take regarding the recommendations outlined in the report.
3. Provide direction for CCC to work on next issue - If Council believes no further work is needed by CCC regarding Landlord/Tenant Relations,

the next step would be for Council to identify the next issue for CCC. At the September 12, 2017 City Council meeting, CCC brought forth the following issues for consideration:

- Parking in Campustown
- Public gathering space in Campustown (*previously addressed*)
- Inclusive community principles:
 - Education of tenants/landlords (*Landlord/Tenant Relations report recommendation*)
 - Rent Smart Ames utilization *Landlord/Tenant Relations report recommendation*)
 - Welcoming/inclusiveness of Campustown/Downtown
 - Retention of recent graduates
 - Connect ability between areas of Ames

Campus and Community Commission Members may have additional thoughts they wish to share regarding the next steps during the meeting on May 26. The Council may choose to direct CCC to begin addressing one of the remaining issues listed above or may identify an alternative topic for CCC. In either case, it is important for the Council to provide clear direction regarding what should be provided in response to the Council's request (e.g., what questions to answer, whether there are specific groups the Council believes must be consulted, timeframe expectations).