

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-18

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING INITIATIVE BILL 2021-01 WHICH WOULD EXPAND
TENANT RIGHTS TO INCLUDE RENTAL RELOCATION ASSISTANCE**

WHEREAS, a sufficient number of qualified electors of the City of Bellingham have proposed an Initiative Bill, previously assigned number 2021-01, which would expand tenant rights to include rental relocation assistance;

WHEREAS, Initiative Bill 2021-01 would require landlords to provide written notice 90 days before terminating a rental agreement without cause or increasing rent by more than 5% in a rolling 12-month period; require landlords to pay rental relocation assistance equal to three months of the current fair market rent in the Bellingham area when terminating a rental agreement without cause or increasing rent more than 8%, if requested by tenant, with limited exceptions; and authorize private party civil enforcement actions;

WHEREAS, the City Charter and BMC 1.02.070 provide that the City Council may choose to enact the bill, reject the bill, reject the bill and propose another bill dealing with the same subject, defer the bill to the voters, or take no action on the bill;

WHEREAS, RCW 29A.04.330 requires that the City Council pass a resolution on or before August 3, 2021 to allow an initiative to be placed on the general election ballot in November 2021.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

The City Council hereby defers Initiative Bill 2021-01 to the voters. The Finance Director is instructed to deliver the Initiative Bill to the Whatcom County Auditor for submission to the qualified electors for approval or rejection on the November 2, 2021, ballot pursuant to the City Charter and the Bellingham Municipal Code as well as all paperwork required to ensure that the measure is placed on the ballot in November.

The City Council designates the following community members to serve on the committee "For" the initiative bill to prepare a statement advocating that voters approve the measure:

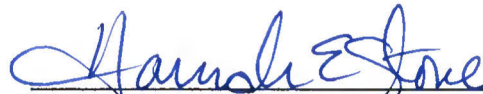
Sage Jones, Eve Smason-Marcus, and Seth Mangold.

The City Council designates the following community members to serve on the committee "Against" the initiative bill to prepare a statement advocating that voters reject the measure:

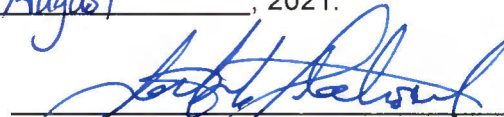
Jim Henderson, Bret Beaupain, and Jon Neville.

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270

PASSED by the Council this 2nd day of August, 2021.

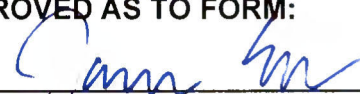

Hannah Stone, Council President

APPROVED by me this 2 day of August, 2021.


Seth Fleetwood, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Andy Asbjornsen, Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Office of the City Attorney

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
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