

# Rental Housing Registration and Inspections

## Draft Ordinance NOW Available for Review

### Overview

The City of Seattle desires an effective means to address problem rental housing units and improve rental housing conditions for Seattle residents. While the City recognizes that the great majority of housing units in the city meet basic standards of habitability, we know that there are some units that clearly do not. The City currently has a complaint-based system; potential violations are reported to the department, we then inspect, and if violations are found, action is taken to gain compliance. This program will continue. However, not all and perhaps some of the most egregious are never reported due to lack of concern about the condition, lack of knowledge of basic code standards, fear of retaliation, or lack of familiarity with the system. In June 2010, the Seattle City Council adopted [Ordinance 123311](#), creating a rental housing licensing and inspection program, which is meant to address these problems.

The Council also adopted [Resolution 31221](#) at the same time, requesting that the DPD report back with recommendations for implementing the program after gathering input from a stakeholder group on a number of policy questions. DPD has convened a [Stakeholder Group](#) and the group is serving to provide DPD input on a number of policy questions concerning the registration and inspection requirements.

The Stakeholder Group met 14 times between December, 2010 and January, 2012, resulting in a series of recommendations on the scope of a rental housing program. As a result of those discussions, DPD prepared a report, "Proposed Registration and Inspection Program for Rental Housing," March 28, 2012. The City Council Housing, Human Services, Health and Culture Committee met four times March through May, providing DPD direction on the preparation of the current draft legislation.

**The draft legislation will be available for comment until Monday, July 23, 2012. Please send comments to:**

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Email Responses: [RentalHousingRegistration@seattle.gov](mailto:RentalHousingRegistration@seattle.gov) [will be live morning of July 3]

Further review and opportunity for comment and discussion will take place following submittal of the legislation to City Council, anticipated in late August.