



COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE Kelly Kimbrough, Chair

DATE: Wednesday, November 20, 2019

PLACE: City Court Room 209 – 2nd Fl. City Hall

TIME: 5:30PM

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 75.111.19R

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ALBANY'S COMMON COUNCIL CALLING ON MAYOR SHEEHAN'S ADMINISTRATION TO CONDUCT A HOUSING VACANCY STUDY TO DETERMINE THE CITY OF ALBANY'S ELIGIBILITY TO OPT INTO THE EMERGENCY TENANT PROTECTION ACT

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Yes

Council Member Doesschate introduced the following:

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WHEREAS, according to the American Community Survey (ACS), there are a total of 41,245 households in the City of Albany and of those households, 25,911 are renting their homes; and

WHEREAS, according to federal guidelines surrounding housing affordability, families should pay no more than thirty percent of their income in rent; and

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by the Fiscal Policy Institute (2019), nearly fifty percent of the households who rent in the City of Albany are "cost burdened"; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the US Census Bureau that was analyzed by the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State in 2019, the City of Albany has lost thousands of affordable rentals over the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, preserving the affordability of units across the city and ensuring that going forward rents increase in a sustainable manner should be a goal of our City's leadership; and

WHEREAS, as of June 14, 2019, the geographic restrictions of the New York State Emergency Tenant Protection Act of 1974 (ETPA) were removed, allowing municipalities to opt in to the ETPA; and

WHEREAS, opting in to the ETPA would allow for the establishment of a rent guidelines board within the City of Albany, who would be tasked with regulating rental rates in the subset of housing that qualifies under the ETPA (buildings with 6 or more units, built on or before 1974); and

WHEREAS, in order to determine the City of Albany's eligibility to opt-in to the ETPA, a current housing vacancy survey must be conducted; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Albany's Common Council calls upon Mayor Sheehan's Administration to commission a housing vacancy survey to determine the City's eligibility under the ETPA.