



FAIR RENT COMMISSION
CITY OF NEW HAVEN

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Justin Elicker
Mayor

Wildaliz Bermúdez
Executive Director

March 23, 2022

To: The Honorable Justin Elicker, Mayor
The Honorable Rosa Ferraro-Santana, Chair, and Aldermanic Affairs Committee

Cc: Barbara Montalvo, Mayor's Office Legislative Aide to the Board of Alders
Misty Maza, Legislative Aide II, Office of Legislative Services

Re: Elena Grewal, Appointment to the Fair Rent Commission

Dear Mayor Elicker and Aldermanic Affairs Committee Chair Ferraro-Santana:

The City of New Haven's Fair Rent Commission (FRC) has been in existence for more than 50 years and serves as a valuable resource for helping to control and eliminate excessive rental charges in New Haven. This year, we have received diverse complaints regarding rental increases and/or unsafe and unhealthy housing conditions in addition to seeing some retaliatory action complaints filed by tenants when it is presumed that a landlord has retaliated against the tenant for filing a Fair Rent complaint. We are also seeing the emergence of Tenants' Unions. By Ordinance, we are required to meet twelve times a year and hold Public Hearings for complaints that are received needing resolutions beyond our Informal Hearings. In addition to regular Public Hearings, we can also hold Special Public Hearings whenever necessary.

The FRC Board of Commissioners is comprised of both tenants and landlords. When a complaint is before the Commissioners during the FRC Public Hearing process, the Commissioners role is to rule on each case based on the evidence and facts presented. Orders determined by the Commissioners shall be effective for one year from the date following the provisions as set forth in the New Haven Municipal Code Section 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ -4.

Given that we currently have three vacancies on the FRC Board, we thank you for considering potentially adding one new Commissioner at this time; accompanying information below:

ELENA GREWAL- for appointment as a Regular Board Member

Mrs. Grewal is a long-time resident of New Haven and is a New Haven landlord of a small three-unit building. As a New Haven landlord, Mrs. Grewal is very interested in housing issues involving the New Haven community. She believes strongly in being fair and listening to both sides. Furthermore, she brings the unique skillset of being a world-renowned data science-leader

which can greatly assist the Commission on data analysis. Her knowledge in data analysis can help the Commission uncover insights about New Haven's housing market. Furthermore, Mrs. Grewal has a strong background in technology, which is useful in advising the Commission on improving the complaint management process. In addition to her professional acumen, Mrs. Grewal enjoys being involved in the community. Having served as the former Chair of the East Rock Community Management Team, Elena took great pride in providing information to the public and has enjoyed being able to do so whenever possible. She would like to be considered to serve as an FRC Commissioner and will add a valuable perspective.

Overall, we are proud to have the FRC Board of Commissioners serve the City of New Haven and look forward to having new potential Commissioners join and assist us. We also recognize that we could not do our work without your support, for which we are very grateful. Thank you for making sure we have the right people on our Board so that FRC can continue to bring tenants and landlords to the table to build a fair and well-maintained housing stock.

Sincerely,



Wildaliz Bermudez

Executive Director, Fair Rent Commission