

HOME Line's tenant organizing webinar series continues...

Call Your Rep!

How to engage public officials on policy and renters rights

Feb. 4th, 2021 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Erin West, Tenant Organizer, HOME Line

Michael Dahl, Policy Director, HOME Line

Tram Hoang, Policy Advocate, The Alliance & (HENS)

Qannani Omar, Housing Organizer, Harrison Neighborhood Association & (HJL)



Grassroots vs Grasstops



Michael Dahl

Public Policy Director, HOME Line - michaeld@homelinemn.org

**I want to help you contact your legislators
if you agree with the 2021 Renters' Agenda!**

2021 Renters' Agenda: Eviction Reforms

- Landlords should have to give tenants a 14-day notice before they can take them to court **for non-payment of rent.**
- Nothing should appear on a tenant's record until a court has ruled against them.
- Evictions for non-payment of rent should be removed from a tenant's record after three years have passed.

2021 Renters' Agenda: Lease Fairness

- Non-optional fees for non-optional services should be banned (for example, “administrative fees,” “move in and move out fees,” “January fees”).
- Tenants deserve a right to privacy & should be given 24-hours notice before a landlord enters their home.
- If a doctor states that a tenant cannot continue living in their present housing situation for health reasons, the tenant should be able to give a 2-month notice.

2021 Renters' Agenda: Heat and Repairs

- Minnesota tenants deserve a statewide heat code.
- More repairs should be emergencies for a landlord to address (for example, elevators that don't work or a broken refrigerator).
- The cost of emergency repair court cases should be reduced from about \$300 to about \$70.

How to contact your legislators:

- Email or call for a meeting
- The meeting:
 - Introductions
 - Tell a story
 - Be the expert
 - Ask the question
- Follow up

Tram Hoang

Policy Advocate, The Alliance & member of Housing Equity Now St Paul (HENS)





HENS Vision & Goals

- Lead with a race and power analysis
- Organize around policies that protect tenants, and advance community control of land and de-commodify housing
- Build people power for housing justice across Saint Paul



Rent Stabilization Campaign

Limit annual
rent
increases to
a certain %
(3-5) a year

Collect
10,000
petition
signatures by
June 1st to
get it on the
ballot

Mobilize
renters and
allies across
Saint Paul to
build renter
power

Pass a rent
stabilization
policy in
November
2021!!!



Ways to Take Action

1. Follow us on Facebook for opportunities to sign the petition and volunteer

2. Share your renter story and how rent stabilization would change your life

3. Join a campaign committee to help build the movement!

Tram Hoang

Policy Advocate, The Alliance & member of Housing Equity Now St Paul (HENS)

Email me!

tram@thealliancetc.org

HENS Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/housingequitynowstp>

Campaign Volunteer Interest Form:

<https://forms.gle/p2bnwemsXktuC5V69>

Qannani Omar

Housing Organizer, Harrison Neighborhood Association & member of Housing Justice League



Harrison Neighborhood Association

- Nearly 70% of residents are renters. Over 50% of those renters are cost-burdened (pay more than 30% of their income to housing costs).
- Development pressures pushed rent control as a top priority
- Power in numbers--the housing crisis and its impacts affects us all.
 - Neighbors
 - Organizations that focus on housing or equity issues
- Housing Justice League
- Minneapolis United for Rent Control Coalition



Minneapolis United for Rent Control

- Our policy platform centers renters first.
 - 3% universal annual rent increase cap (or tie it to Consumer Price Index)
 - Applies to all rental properties regardless of size or age.
 - Include protections against the amount landlords can pass renovation and repair fees onto tenants.
 - Be applied retroactively to rental prices a year before rent control is implemented to avoid price gouging.
- Clear channels of communication with your legislative representatives
 - Individual Correspondence, monthly and/or quarterly check-ins
 - Two-way street, you can ask what you can do to help support efforts
- Minneapolis United for Rent Control--Join us!
 - Building a movement
 - General info meeting this Saturday, February 6th, at noon.



Qannani Omar

Housing Organizer, Harrison Neighborhood Association & member of Housing Justice League

Email: qannani@hnampls.org

Minneapolis United for Rent Control Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MinneapolisUnitedForRentControl>

*February 6th General info meeting log-in details are on Facebook.

Get in touch!

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Call HOME Line for legal advice: 612 728 5767