1	CITY OF KINGSTON
2	RENT GUIDELINES BOARD
3	PUBLIC MEETING
4	
5	Wednesday, November 9, 2022
6	6:31 p.m. until 9:53 p.m.
7	Kingston City Hall
8	420 Broadway
9	Kingston, New York 12401
10	
11	BOARD MEMBERS:
12	NOAH KIPPLEY-OGMAN, Chair
13	ANTHONY R. TAMPONE
14	ARLENE PUENTES
15	CAROL SOTO
16	DIANA LOPEZ MARTINEZ
17	MICHAEL BROWN
18	MIE INOUYE
19	TARA A. PERRY
20	MICHAEL TIERNEY
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22	
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24	
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               (The hearing commenced at 6:31 p.m.)
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               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     I'm Noah Kippley-
 3
     Ogman, chair -- Chair of the Kingston Rent
     Guidelines Board.
 4
                        It is six thirty-one p.m. and
     we are here in the Kingston City Hall building.
 5
     And I would -- I'm calling this meeting of the
 6
     Kingston Rent Guidelines Board to order and I
     would like to have my colleagues --
 8
 9
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: -- and I would
10
     like to have my colleagues introduce themselves
11
     starting with Carol. You can say your name and --
12
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: -- into your mic
13
     say your name and whether you're a tenant
14
     representative, a property owner representative,
     or a member of the public.
15
16
               MS. SOTO: Hi, my name is Carol Soto.
     am a tenant representative. I live at 305 Hurley
17
18
     Avenue, Stony Run, the infamous Stony Run.
19
               MR. TIERNEY: We're tenants, we share.
20
               MS. SOTO: Yeah.
21
               MR. TIERNEY: My name is Michael
22
     Tierney, I'm the other tenant representative, I
23
     live at 25 John Street.
24
               THE REPORTER: A little louder, yeah.
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MR. TIERNEY: My name is Michael

25

- 1 Tierney. I'm the tenant representative and I live
- 2 at 25 John Street.
- MR. BROWN: My name is Michael Brown,
- 4 member of the public.
- 5 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: All right. Noah
- 6 Kippley-Ogman, Chair and member of the public.
- 7 MS. MARTINEZ: Diana Lopez and I'm a
- 8 member of the public.
- 9 MS. INOUYE: Mie Inouye, member of the
- 10 public.
- MS. PUENTES: Arlene Puentes, member of
- 12 the public.
- MS. PERRY: Tara Perry, property owner.
- MR. TAMPONE: Anthony Tampone, property
- 15 owner.
- 16 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: The first thing I
- 17 would like to do today is we have received a -- a
- 18 number of written public testimonies that we have
- 19 received via email and we have, I believe, at
- 20 least two additional pieces of public testimony
- 21 that I would like this board to decide whether or
- 22 not we read aloud into the record or -- or -- or
- 23 if -- or -- or what I would propose, I would -- I
- 24 will make a motion that we do not read into the
- 25 record the ninety pages of testimony that we were

- 1 emailed earlier this week but that we do read into
- 2 the record the other pieces of public testimony
- 3 that have come to this board that we have at the
- 4 ... so I think that --
- 5 MS. PUENTES: I'm having trouble
- 6 understanding you. I'm having trouble
- 7 understanding you.
- 8 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I think we should
- 9 read into the record the two pieces of public
- 10 testimony that we've received outside of what was
- 11 emailed in a -- in a batch from D.H.C.R., so.
- MS. PUENTES: So that's your motion?
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: That's my motion.
- MS. PUENTES: That's your motion? All
- 15 right. I second.
- 16 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: And let's go
- 17 around. Carol?
- 18 MS. SOTO: Aye.
- MR. TIERNEY: Aye.
- MR. BROWN: Aye.
- MR. TAMPONE: Aye.
- MS. MARTINEZ: Aye.
- MS. INOUYE: Aye.
- MS. PERRY: Aye.
- 25 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Aye, the motion

5

- 1 carries. And Arlene, would you read the piece of
- 2 testimony that you've wisely printed out?
- 3 MS. PUENTES: Is it -- is -- is there
- 4 more than this or is this the --?
- 5 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I think -- I think
- 6 Michael also have some.
- 7 MR. TIERNEY: I do.
- 8 MS. PUENTES: You have one, Michael?
- 9 All right. So -- so do you want -- you'll --
- 10 you'll read yours and I'll read mine? This was
- 11 received on November 9th to the -- to the board
- 12 individually.
- 13 Dear Chair Kippley-Ogman and board
- 14 members, this is Charles Sanchis writing. For
- 15 those of you who do not know me, I was originally
- 16 nominated for the Rent Guidelines Board but
- 17 withdrew my nomination upon D.H.C.R. advising I
- 18 would have to seize all tenant -- tenant advocacy
- 19 activities and that I would be barred from
- 20 pressing D.H.C.R. to timely review decision to
- 21 complaint rental appeals.
- 22 Unfortunately, I fell for D.H.C.R. scare
- 23 tactics that would have -- that I would have to
- 24 cease all tenant advocacy activities since board
- 25 members are, in fact, able to advocate. For

- 1 example, Diana works for a tenant advocacy
- 2 organization, but I digress. Progress --
- 3 protecting tenants from unaffordable rent
- 4 increases in a tight housing market at a time of
- 5 high inflation is a large part of why Kingston
- 6 adopted rent stabilization and established the
- 7 Rent Guidelines Board in the first place.
- Now, as you approach the critical task
- 9 of establishing a rent adjustment and lookback
- 10 period, all eyes are on your ability to strike
- 11 balance between the needs of tenants, landlords,
- 12 lords of the land and the public interest. This
- is especially challenging during times of high
- 14 inflation, however, your methodology in deciding
- on rent adjustments lookback period is made easier
- 16 by analyzing the impact that real estate ownership
- 17 and capitalization have on prices and
- 18 affordability here in Kingston, New York.
- 19 Landlords, large and small, are
- 20 traditionally much better capitalized and have the
- 21 ability to weather the cost of increased storm
- 22 that is inflation. Landlords not only earn net
- 23 profits from owning property, but often are more
- 24 financially sophisticated and have invested money,
- 25 technical currency across different verticals to

- 1 further earn profits, all of which increase during
- 2 market booms.
- 3 The National Association of Realtors
- 4 stated that Kingston's housing market was the
- 5 hottest in the nation during 2021, and then it
- 6 gives a website, which impacted sales and rentals
- 7 giving Kingston landlords a unique position of
- 8 earning potential.
- 9 Did tenants receive the same earning
- 10 potential as landlords in what turned out to be
- 11 the hottest real estate market in the country?
- 12 And did the real estate market in Kingston boom
- 13 organically? Or was it driven by a one in a
- 14 hundred-year event known as the pandemic COVID?
- 15 And how do you adjust for an artificially driven
- 16 boom?
- 17 Not all landlords in Kingston whose
- 18 buildings are covered by E.T.P.A. harass their
- 19 tenants, use lease renewal intimidation tactics
- 20 and willfully violate the 2020 Fire Code of New
- 21 York State and the 2020 Property Maintenance Code
- 22 of New York State.
- 23 Given this, it is most probable that
- 24 tenants of landlords who efficiently and humanely
- 25 manage and maintain their properties will not even

- 1 file for a rent appeal complaint with D.H.C.R.
- 2 These tenants are receiving what they are paid for
- 3 and in good conscience will not want to negatively
- 4 affect their good landlord.
- 5 Therefore, any rent adjustment and
- 6 lookback period which you decide is not going to
- 7 have a blanket effect on landlords, properties or
- 8 the Kingston rental market will not negatively
- 9 affect the public interest. The rent adjustment
- 10 and lookback will simply be one tool in the
- 11 toolbox for negatively affected tenants which seem
- 12 to be concentrated in E.T.P.A. buildings owned by
- 13 enterprise landlords.
- 14 With the -- with all -- with all of our
- 15 data you have received from tenants, it is evident
- 16 that rents rose dramatically and it can be
- 17 concluded that this was not an erratic market
- 18 change. To compensate for this, I urge you to
- 19 most seriously consider a negative rate adjustment
- 20 in the range of negative fifteen percent to
- 21 negative eighteen percent.
- 22 Again, not every tenant will file a rent
- 23 appeal so landlords who are efficiently and
- 24 humanely managing and maintaining their properties
- 25 will likely not be negatively affected. In terms

- 1 of a lookback period, in reviewing documents
- 2 disseminated by your chair and the attached, which
- 3 does not account for 2021 and 2022 ... there was a
- 4 twenty percent increase from 2021 this year.
- 5 It seems 2017 or 2018 is a point in time
- 6 to artificial increases. That said, I strongly
- 7 urge a lookback period of four to five years.
- 8 Being a named party in a lawsuit is never
- 9 comforting and unfortunately in the United States,
- 10 anyone can sue anyone for anything, even matters
- 11 without merit and which were -- are willfully
- 12 frivolous are filed.
- Rent Guidelines Boards have been sued by
- 14 landlords in the past and in all of them, the A.G.
- 15 office represents the boards. And he gives two
- 16 examples. Sued in 2016 and sued in 2019, and he
- 17 gives websites and this will be in the public
- 18 record.
- 19 Rent Guidelines Boards being sued seems
- 20 to be par for the course unfortunately, but never
- 21 before has the Board postponed their vote. I urge
- 22 you to stay the course and render your decision,
- 23 rent adjustment, lookback period on schedule.
- 24 Thank you for your dedicated service and
- 25 most serious consideration of a negative rent

- 1 adjustment in the range of negative fifteen to
- 2 negative eighteen and a four to five-year
- 3 lookback. Many thanks, Charles O. Sanchis. And
- 4 he gives his phone number and email.
- 5 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you, Arlene.
- 6 All right. Michael.
- 7 MR. TIERNEY: Yes, so the -- we received
- 8 a public comment just a little while ago, so I
- 9 want to make sure that it is read.
- 10 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Can you speak
- 11 louder?
- MR. TIERNEY: Yes, we got a public
- 13 comment a little while ago that was sent to me
- 14 just to make sure that it gets received and read
- 15 tonight. This is from State Senator Michelle
- 16 Hinchey, who represents the Forty-sixth Senate
- 17 District including the City of Kingston.
- 18 Sorry, I have to zoom in. As the
- 19 Kingston Rent Guidelines Board gathers for the
- 20 first time for rent regulations for buildings with
- 21 over six or more units built prior to 1974 in the
- 22 City of Kingston. I would like to urge the board
- 23 to keep the needs of tenants in the forefront of
- 24 their mind.
- 25 Tenants in Kingston have weathered

- 1 unprecedented rent increases over the past few
- 2 years with the average rent in Kingston rising by
- 3 over eleven percent last year alone.
- 4 Unfortunately, wages have often not kept up with
- 5 these increases and additional cost of living
- 6 expenses are skyrocketing, putting additional
- 7 burdens on renters in our community with over
- 8 eighteen percent of Kingston's population living
- 9 in poverty.
- 10 Our residents are at risk of being
- 11 displaced when faced with unforeseen and often
- 12 significantly large rent increases. We need our
- 13 housing costs to be in line with local wages while
- 14 taking into account the additional costs of living
- 15 for our local residents.
- 16 Managing these housing costs will allow
- 17 residents to continue to stay in Kingston, raise
- 18 their families and age in place. I am grateful
- 19 that we have this new board in place to set
- 20 guidelines that will serve the needs of our
- 21 community, and I ask the members of the board to
- 22 think critically about what is best for local
- 23 residents and tenants at this time. That is from
- 24 sincerely Michelle Hinchey, New York State Senator
- 25 District Forty-six.

- 1 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you,
 2 Michael.
- 3 MR. TIERNEY: Thank you, Senator
- 4 Hinchey.
- 5 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you, Senator
- 6 Hinchey also. I would like to take a moment to
- 7 ask our colleagues at D.H.C.R. on the -- on the
- 8 advice of -- Arlene -- Peter, could you give us a
- 9 -- an outline and a reminder of our
- 10 responsibilities?
- 11 MR. STECKER: Sure, I'd be glad to. I
- 12 guess I'll take one moment.
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah.
- 14 MR. STECKER: Can everybody hear me?
- MS. PERRY: Yes.
- MS. MARTINEZ: Yes.
- 17 MR. STECKER: Okay. Good --
- MS. SOTO: I can't hear you.
- 19 MR. STECKER: -- evening everybody. You
- 20 can't hear me?
- MS. SOTO: Now, I can hear you.
- 22 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Can you come to
- 23 the table?
- 24 MR. STECKER: Okay. You know what, I'll
- 25 take this empty seat. Okay. Good evening,

- 1 everyone. So Chair, if you just want to restate
- 2 exactly what you're looking for from me?
- 3 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Can you outline
- 4 for us our legal responsibilities?
- 5 MR. STECKER: Okay. I think what you
- 6 mean is your responsibilities for what this board
- 7 needs to produce. Is that correct?
- 8 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yes.
- 9 MS. PUENTES: Tonight.
- 10 MR. STECKER: Well, you know, first,
- 11 I'll mention that, and Arlene, I know that you
- 12 weren't present at the first meeting. So you
- 13 know, on the public notice that's been sent out a
- 14 couple of times to the mailing list and
- 15 disseminated, you know, several places, there is a
- 16 public meeting scheduled for tonight. The express
- 17 purpose of talking about the record that's been
- 18 received and, you know, if possible, to set the
- 19 guidelines for this evening.
- The Board on 21st of September also set
- 21 a placeholder meeting in case this board is not
- 22 able to or doesn't decide to try to set a
- 23 quideline for this evening, which has already been
- 24 publicly noticed with the exact same agenda, it's
- 25 a continuing consideration and discussion of the

- 1 record before the board and setting the
- 2 adjustments that need to be set by this board.
- 3 So that would be, if necessary,
- 4 scheduled for Monday, November 14th. So I'm not
- 5 sure if you're aware of that, I think everyone
- 6 else in the board is aware of that. But you know,
- 7 just so everyone is aware, that's been publicly
- 8 noticed, if necessary, this board has a
- 9 placeholder meeting set up for this coming Monday,
- 10 November 14th.
- 11 So just briefly, to reiterate what this
- 12 board's responsibility for producing is going to
- 13 be. There's two distinct requirements that this
- 14 board needs to meet. They need to set a rental
- 15 adjustment for leases going forward and a fair
- 16 market rental adjustment guideline for leases
- 17 going backwards.
- 18 So I'll explain both of them in brief.
- 19 I don't want to take too long. However, the
- 20 adjustment for leases going forward. After
- 21 Kingston adopted the Emergency Tenant Protection
- 22 Act and brought rent regulation to the City, the
- 23 effective date of that was August 1st, 2022.
- 24 So this board's main function going
- 25 forward is going to be to set the maximum rate of

- 1 increase that a landlord can charge on a new and
- 2 renewal lease. So rent regulated tenants are
- 3 entitled to vacancy leases and they're also
- 4 entitled to renewal leases under the law.
- 5 So this board's primary responsibility
- 6 going forward will be to set what the maximum rate
- 7 of adjustment will be when those leases come due.
- 8 So you know, that could be a -- it's going to be
- 9 either a one-year or a two-year lease, when it's
- 10 offered. There's no month to month tenancy,
- 11 there's no six-month tenancy, it's a one or a two-
- 12 year lease.
- 13 So what this board's responsibility is
- 14 for leases from August 1st, 2022, when E.T.P.A.
- 15 became effective in Kingston, going forward and
- 16 it'll be effective until August -- October 1st of
- 17 2023, this adjustment that we're talking about.
- 18 Are you following?
- MS. PUENTES: No, say that again -- say
- 20 that again, August 1st to?
- 21 MR. STECKER: So yeah, this -- this
- 22 adjustment will be effective for any lease, new
- 23 and renewal lease, going from August 1st of 2022
- 24 until the end of September 2023 and this board
- 25 will meet in the summer of 2023 to set the

- 1 adjustments that will become effective October 1st
- 2 of 2023.
- 3 So what that should look like, this
- 4 adjustment from August 1st through September 30th
- 5 of 2023 will be an adjustment for one year leases
- 6 and for two year leases. They can be the same but
- 7 often they vary in other counties.
- 8 So does that cover the question that you
- 9 asked for that one? Okay. And then, I think you
- 10 sent an email to the board's box earlier today,
- 11 seeking clarification on this special fair market
- 12 rent quideline.
- 13 So this is not something that's going to
- 14 be an ongoing responsibility for the board. This
- is something that is triggered by the adoption of
- 16 E.T.P.A. So this board's responsibility is also
- 17 if you choose to, to set a fair market rent
- 18 guideline, which is going to be used by D.H.C.R.
- 19 in determining Fair Market Rent Appeals that are
- 20 filed by tenants in the City of Kingston.
- 21 And the Fair Market Rent Appeal
- 22 essentially says prior to the adoption of rent
- 23 regulation in Kingston, my landlord impermissibly
- 24 increased my rent at a rate that was too high. So
- 25 this board's responsibility for the Fair Market

- 1 Rent Appeal purposes is to set a separate
- 2 guideline, which has two components to it.
- 3 The first component is setting a
- 4 lookback period. So that's going to be the
- 5 timeframe in which, you know, D.H.C.R. will look
- 6 back and say, okay, during this time period, was
- 7 there an impermissible rent increase? So that's
- 8 something that's to be decided by this board, what
- 9 the lookback period is.
- 10 It's an important consideration that
- 11 shouldn't be taken lightly as to, you know, how
- 12 long that lookback period should be because that
- 13 will ultimately inform how many tenants are able
- 14 to file these Fair Market Rent Appeals.
- 15 The second component is a maximum -- or
- 16 allowable increase during that lookback period
- 17 needs to be set. So that should also look like a
- 18 percentage. You know, at the first meeting, I
- 19 gave an example of, really the only recent
- 20 example, of a new municipality to come in and what
- 21 their lookback guideline looked like, and that was
- 22 in the Village of Ossining in Westchester County.
- A couple of years ago, they came in and
- 24 they set a lookback period of six months and there
- 25 was a two percent increase for tenants with no

- 1 leases, a four percent increase for tenants with
- 2 leases. As I stressed at the first meeting, this
- 3 Fair Market Rent guideline, as well as the
- 4 adjustment for leases from August 1st going
- 5 forward, should be based on, you know, there
- 6 really is no limit really set forth in the law,
- 7 but it really needs to be based on what this board
- 8 heard in the public testimony in the data that's
- 9 been circulated. It needs to be something that's
- 10 reasonable and something that's defensible.
- 11 So I know that that's a lot for, you
- 12 know, a short period of time but, you know, I
- 13 wanted to give you the benefit of -- because I
- 14 know you missed the first meeting. And that's
- 15 really what this board's responsibility is,
- 16 whether it's set tonight, whether it's set on
- 17 Monday, you know, in the placeholder meeting
- 18 that's been set up, or, you know, at a -- at
- 19 another time that the board decides. But
- 20 hopefully that covers the question you asked.
- 21 MS. PUENTES: Is -- is it also possible
- 22 for the board to decide not to set a Fair Market
- 23 Rent adjustment? Is that also an option?
- MR. STECKER: Well, it's up to the board
- 25 to set the parameters for what D.H.C.R. is going

- 1 to decide Fair Market Rent Appeals on. So you
- 2 know, certainly the board, if they want to, can
- 3 set a Fair Market Rent Appeal that, you know,
- 4 wouldn't have a lookback period, wouldn't have any
- 5 adjustments, I mean.
- 6 MS. PUENTES: What -- and what would
- 7 that -- what would that look like?
- 8 MR. STECKER: Well, you know, this board
- 9 would make a finding that a Fair Market Rent
- 10 Appeal is not something that is appropriate for
- 11 the board to make. Do you understand what I'm
- 12 saying?
- MS. PUENTES: Would you say that again?
- MR. STECKER: So --.
- MS. PUENTES: Would you say that again?
- 16 THE REPORTER: Please speak up.
- 17 MR. STECKER: So the -- the board in
- 18 that case, if this board decides that no Fair
- 19 Market Rent Appeal lookback is appropriate, then,
- 20 you know, conceivably, they could set a Fair
- 21 Market Rent guideline that says there's no
- 22 lookback period.
- 23 You know, there's not a lot of recent
- 24 examples for the Fair Market Rent Appeals, you
- 25 know, other than the Ossining example that I gave

- 1 you. So you know, I -- I guess, it's
- 2 theoretically possible that the board declines to
- 3 set a lookback period on that.
- 4 MS. PUENTES: And so we could -- the --
- 5 a Fair Market Rent guideline for separate bedroom
- 6 sizes. Is that what we're talking about, one
- 7 bedroom, two bedroom, three --
- 8 MR. STECKER: No, no, no.
- 9 MS. PUENTES: -- ... five bedrooms?
- 10 MR. STECKER: Well -- April, I don't
- 11 know if you want to jump in on it but, you know,
- 12 again, there's not a lot of examples with this.
- 13 And with Ossining, what they did was a percentage
- 14 for tenants with no leases, and a percentage for
- 15 tenants with leases. You know --.
- 16 MS. PUENTES: I'm -- I'm -- I
- 17 thought that it was for example, we would say
- 18 that, just to give round numbers, a one bedroom in
- 19 2019 should have been six hundred dollars. Is
- 20 that what we're talking about?
- 21 MR. STECKER: No. That's not really how
- 22 this process works. I mean, the guidelines should
- 23 be applicable to, you know, apartments, kind of
- 24 regardless of size. I mean, there -- there is
- 25 some ability for boards to have some variations in

- 1 their guidelines that they set.
- 2 You know, frequently, the Westchester
- 3 County guideline sets a separate guideline for
- 4 tenants who pay for their own utilities. You
- 5 know, but --.
- 6 MS. PUENTES: So when you're talking --
- 7 when you're talking about guidelines, you're not
- 8 talking about a number?
- 9 MR. STECKER: No.
- 11 you're not ... say five hundred dollars, you're
- 12 talking --.
- 13 MR. STECKER: I'm talking about a
- 14 percentage of increase on a lease.
- MS. PUENTES: So a percentage, say, from
- 16 2019 to 2020 should have been three percent, you
- 17 would say.
- 18 MR. STECKER: A rate -- yes, so -- so if
- 19 you were to read the Ossining -- just to go back
- 20 to the Ossining one. They would say, for the Fair
- 21 Market Rent Appeals, there was a six-month
- 22 lookback period. So if somebody was complaining
- 23 about something that was seven months before the
- 24 effective date, D.H.C.R. wouldn't have
- 25 jurisdiction to hear that.

- 1 And if you look at the percentages that
- 2 they set, those are the maximum allowable
- 3 percentages. So if you were to receive a -- there
- 4 was a two percent for tenants with no leases. If
- 5 a tenant during the six-month period received a
- 6 three percent increase, that would be deemed an
- 7 impermissible increase and D.H.C.R. would adjust
- 8 it accordingly.
- 9 And in that case, you know, D.H.C.R.
- 10 would look at that, they would adjust the rent
- 11 down and the landlord would be required to, you
- 12 know, remit the -- the increase back to the
- 13 tenant.
- 14 MS. PUENTES: If there is a multiple
- 15 year lookback period, are we to set a percentage
- 16 for each year or one percent for each year?
- 17 MR. STECKER: I mean, you know, again,
- 18 we're talking about something that doesn't occur
- 19 very frequently. And there's nothing that I can
- 20 think of that would disallow you, you know, to set
- 21 something for different periods. But I would also
- 22 urge that whatever you set should be based on all
- 23 of the data that was received, the record which --
- 24 part of the agenda tonight is to talk about what
- 25 the record is.

- 1 So you know, again, these guidelines
- 2 need to be defensible, they need to be reasonable
- 3 and if you're going to be setting something with a
- 4 bunch of differences like that, you know, I would
- 5 want to be able to point something in the record
- 6 that shows this is why we did this, this is why we
- 7 did that.
- 8 There's also an operational concern for
- 9 D.H.C.R. if you're setting, you know, different
- 10 rates for different years. You know, that just
- 11 seems somewhat unruly to deal with but, you know,
- 12 again, there's not a lot of limits on what you're
- 13 going to be setting. So you know, it could be
- 14 that -- that's to be decided whether that's
- 15 appropriate for you to do.
- 16 MR. TAMPONE: Could you elaborate a
- 17 little bit more on the mechanics of how it works
- 18 when somebody files Fair Market Rent Appeal given
- 19 the guideline. Let's take the Ossining example of
- 20 six months and let's say four percent. My
- 21 understanding is that if someone files a Fair
- 22 Market Rent Appeal, they give supporting testimony
- 23 of what their rents were and then D.H.C.R. looks
- 24 at what comparable units would have been. And
- 25 that's what it's -- that's what the -- the -- the

- 1 fact sheet says is used for D.H.C.R. to set to --
- 2 to -- to file that appeal, right?
- 3 So how does -- is the -- is the rent of
- 4 the unit adjusted first and then the percentage
- 5 applied, or how does that work? Let's give an
- 6 example, somebody files a Fair Market Rent Appeal,
- 7 they have a twelve hundred dollar a month rent
- 8 now, they think that it should have been -- and
- 9 we're talking about a lookback period of a year
- 10 ago, and we say that there's a five percent
- 11 increase, right?
- Given that example, how would that work
- 13 and what would they end up with as the rent that
- 14 they're paying now?
- MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: So the fact sheet is
- 16 actually addressing what happens in New York City
- 17 with rent control --.
- 18 MR. TAMPONE: ... speaking.
- MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: I've never had
- 20 anybody else coming to do that.
- MS. PERRY: I can't hear anything.
- MR. TAMPONE: Tilt it up a little bit,
- 23 yeah, yeah.
- 24 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: The fact sheet itself
- 25 addresses rent control in New York City. So the

- 1 example of what the rent could be or should be is
- 2 outside of what you're looking at. That's a --
- 3 that's really when an apartment is converted from
- 4 rent -- a rent control tenant vacates an
- 5 apartment, the owner is going to access and rent
- 6 the apartment out as rent stabilized.
- 7 In this case, what you're looking at is
- 8 lookback period and a percentage. So yours was a
- 9 twelve hundred -- just give me your numbers again,
- 10 I'm sorry.
- 11 MR. TAMPONE: Let's say someone
- 12 currently is paying twelve hundred dollars per
- month for a one-bedroom apartment, right, and they
- 14 -- we have a year lookback period, right, so they
- 15 are looking for a Fair Market Rent Appeal based on
- 16 a year ago.
- 17 Is that -- is there -- are you
- 18 addressing the individual unit, comparable units,
- 19 comparable amenities in order to do, I mean, just
- 20 by the word Fair Market Rent Appeal will make you
- 21 think that you're trying to adjust that to be what
- 22 would have been fair market at that time. Is that
- 23 what's happening or are you just using the number
- 24 that we --
- 25 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: It's the --

- 1 MR. TAMPONE: -- percentage number that
- 2 we pick?
- 3 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: -- it's the number
- 4 that you pick. So in your example, okay, so two
- 5 things. In Kingston, as of August 1st, owners are
- 6 not supposed to collect any additional rent --
- 7 MR. TAMPONE: Uh-huh.
- 8 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: -- right? Got it.
- 9 So in your example, if the person had a twelve
- 10 hundred dollar rent August 2nd, and it was
- 11 increased to a different, pick any number, it
- 12 would be rolled back at least to the twelve
- 13 hundred.
- 14 If you had a five percent guideline, and
- 15 you said one year, if a year ago, their rent was
- 16 eleven hundred dollars and the owner raised their
- 17 rent to twelve hundred dollars, what D.H.C.R.
- 18 would do is collect the data from the tenant, it's
- 19 not related to amenities, it's not related to a
- 20 comparable apartment because that's really a rent
- 21 control situation in the city.
- What they would do is take the tenant's
- 23 current rent of twelve hundred. They would look
- 24 back a year and the rent was eleven hundred, so
- 25 the owner on a renewal before August 1st, based on

- 1 your numbers, would be entitled to a five percent
- 2 guideline increase total fifty-five dollars.
- 3 If he charged twelve hundred and the
- 4 tenant filed an overcharge complaint, the owner
- 5 would be directed to pay the tenant back forty-
- 6 five dollars because that's the difference between
- 7 what he could have collected and what this board
- 8 has set as a Fair Market Rent Appeal, and refund
- 9 that amount to the tenant over whatever number of
- 10 months the tenant paid the difference.
- 11 MR. TAMPONE: So the fair --.
- 12 MR. TIERNEY: Chairman, can I make a
- 13 motion that we limit these questions to five more
- 14 minutes? We have business to do.
- 15 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: And that's a
- 16 motion, do we have a second?
- 17 MS. MARTINEZ: Second.
- 18 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Diana seconds,
- 19 Carol?
- MS. SOTO: Aye.
- 21 MR. TIERNEY: Aye.
- MR. BROWN: Aye.
- 23 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Aye.
- MS. MARTINEZ: Aye.
- MS. INOUYE: Aye.

- 1 MS. PUENTES: Nay.
- 2 MS. PERRY: Nay.
- 3 MR. TAMPONE: Nay.
- 4 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: The motion carries
- 5 with five more minutes for these questions.
- 6 MR. TAMPONE: All right. I'll try to
- 7 make it quick. So there is no consideration, so
- 8 let's just say somebody, we have -- someone has
- 9 been paying significantly more than comparable
- 10 units for the last five years, and we set a one-
- 11 year lookback period, a fair market rent
- 12 adjustment appeal will not affect anything for
- 13 them. It will, let's say it's five percent, it
- 14 would just make a maximum change of five percent
- 15 looking back a year?
- 16 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: Correct.
- 17 MR. TAMPONE: Okay. So there's no --
- 18 there's no ability to kind of like let the Fair
- 19 Market Rent Appeals settle in to like adjust, I --
- 20 I guess -- I guess I get it, I was unclear on how
- 21 that worked based on how it was previously
- 22 described, so.
- 23 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Other questions?
- 24 Thank you so much, Peter, and April, thank you so
- 25 much for making sure that we get clarity on this.

- 1 At this point in time, I would like to welcome our
- 2 landlord representatives and our tenant
- 3 representatives to offer presentations of what
- 4 they think are reasonable choices for this board
- 5 to make. I'll leave it to the four of you to
- 6 decide who goes first.
- 7 MR. TIERNEY: It doesn't matter.
- 8 MS. PERRY: I -- I can go first.
- 9 MR. TAMPONE: Sure.
- 10 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you, Tara.
- 11 MS. PERRY: I did prepare a little
- 12 something to read.
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Awesome.
- 14 MS. PERRY: I'd like to thank everyone
- 15 who came out to testify in front of the Rent
- 16 Guidelines Board. I'd just like to take a moment
- 17 to give you a little background on myself so you
- 18 can see that I have extensive experience and am
- 19 qualified to speak on this topic.
- I've been a real estate agent for twenty
- 21 years and have professionally managed residential
- 22 and commercial complexes in Ulster and Dutchess
- 23 County for over twenty-five years. In addition to
- 24 handling tenant questions and concerns on a daily
- 25 basis, part of my job is creating and managing

- 1 annual budgets for the properties I manage.
- 2 My career allows me to work with
- 3 investors buying and selling residential
- 4 properties as well as residents who live in
- 5 apartments. So I am sympathetic to both sides of
- 6 the issues landlords and tenants face on a daily
- 7 basis. And these last two couple of meetings
- 8 we've heard a lot from the Stony Run tenants.
- 9 This group seems to be impacted the most.
- 10 Most of the testimony we heard were
- 11 complaints about the management, the maintenance,
- 12 and the upkeep of the property. There were a few
- 13 tenants who were able to provide actual rental
- 14 increase amounts and percentages. The increases
- 15 seemed to be anywhere from five to fifteen percent
- 16 per year according to the testimony that we heard.
- 17 Running a property is a lot like running
- 18 your household, just like you make a budget for
- 19 your monthly bills to make sure you can pay
- 20 everything with the income you have, the landlord
- 21 does the same thing in order to make sure that
- 22 they can run their property with the rent they
- 23 collect.
- 24 What a lot of people don't realize is
- 25 that a property has a lot of expenses and these

- 1 expenses are constantly going up. They don't ever
- 2 go down. There are mortgage payments, taxes,
- 3 insurance, utilities, maintenance, office staff
- 4 salaries, maintenance salaries, landscape, snow
- 5 removal costs, maintenance repair cost, outside
- 6 vendors, like a plumber or an electrician.
- 7 The money to pay for these things comes
- 8 from the rent -- rents the landlord collects.
- 9 Unfortunately, during COVID, some residents
- 10 stopped paying rent. I experienced this firsthand
- 11 at a property I managed. Some residents didn't
- 12 pay rent for a few years. During that period,
- 13 landlords could not evict tenants so that was less
- 14 money the landlord had coming in each month and a
- 15 tenant continued to live at the property using
- 16 utilities and not paying for anything. This hurt
- 17 a lot of landlords and continues to do so.
- 18 New York State has Emergency Rental
- 19 Assistance Program that the residents can apply to
- 20 also known as ERAP. This will pay landlords up to
- 21 twelve months of back rent, up to three months of
- 22 future rent. Unfortunately, the average ERAP
- 23 application is taking six months to a year to
- 24 process for a landlord to possibly even see a
- 25 payment from this. It's a long time.

1 Some landlords had to take additional 2 loans out just to be able to pay for the basics 3 and to pay the mortgage. According to the ERAP 4 website, just in Ulster County, landlords were awarded over nine million dollars back in paid 5 According to the ERAP website, the average 6 rent. 7 payment was over ten thousand dollars. This 8 should give you an idea on how many people have 9 not paid rent in the last few years, and this is 10 just Ulster County. Not paying the rent affects how much 11 12 people -- how much money is coming into the 13 property to pay for monthly bills. Landlords find 14 it necessary each year to raise rents to keep up with inflation and the rising costs to run the 15 property. Most are not lining their pockets with 16 17 money like most people think. 18 When there's not enough money coming in 19 due to people not paying rent or increasing costs or vacancies, etcetera, it makes it hard for a 20 21 landlord to maintain the property. While I do 22 believe that certain landlords have taken 23 advantage of the situation and have excessively

The other landlords should not be

raised rents, not all landlords did that.

24

25

- 1 punished for the actions of a few. I do feel a
- 2 rent reduction in any amount or even a freeze on
- 3 rents is not going to help tenants or landlords in
- 4 the situation we're currently in.
- 5 If the landlord does not have enough
- 6 money coming in to properly maintain the
- 7 buildings, the residents are the ones who
- 8 ultimately suffer. Maintenance may have to take
- 9 parts from empty apartments to fix the current
- 10 ones like they did in Stony Run. They may have to
- 11 cut down on services such as swimming pool, trash
- 12 butler, laundry, fitness rooms. They'll not be
- 13 able to repair leaking roofs or broken pieces of
- 14 glass. They will not be able to buy new
- 15 appliances when old ones break down. They may
- 16 have to replace them with used appliances. They
- 17 may not even be able to pay the electric or
- 18 heating bill which will affect tenants.
- Just to give you an example, I run a
- 20 property that brings in about one point five
- 21 million dollars of rent a year, all the utilities
- 22 are included. It sounds like a lot of money. But
- 23 by the time the expenses to run the property are
- 24 paid, there are no owner salaries being paid here
- 25 either, we have no money left by the end of the

- 1 year.
- 2 The electric bill alone is close to
- 3 three hundred thousand a year, insurance for the
- 4 property is over a hundred thousand a year. Trash
- 5 is thirty thousand a year, water sewer seventy-two
- 6 thousand a year, mowing lawns and landscaping is
- 7 forty thousand a year. And those are just a few
- 8 expenses which by no means represent all the
- 9 expenses the property incurs. And those expenses
- 10 that I just mentioned are around five hundred and
- 11 fifty thousand dollars a year, that's before the
- 12 mortgage, taxes and other expenses are even paid.
- I'm a numbers person so I'm going to
- 14 give you some numbers to put things into
- 15 perspective. HUD has released its area median
- 16 income for 2022 on their website, and believe it
- 17 or not, Kingston has a median household income of
- 18 ninety-six thousand dollars per year. And that's
- 19 household income -- it's household income, not
- 20 individual income.
- 21 RUPCO, which is also known as Section 8,
- 22 uses this information in part to determine what
- 23 the affordability -- affordability is for the
- 24 rents that they will approve for low-income
- 25 households receiving housing vouchers in Ulster

- 1 County. This information can be found directly on
- 2 the RUPCO website.
- 3 Studios eleven twenty-five, one bedrooms
- 4 twelve seventy-two, two bedrooms sixteen thirty-
- 5 six, three bedrooms twenty-one fifty-two and so
- 6 on. I'm going to use Stony Run as an example.
- 7 Now, remember Stony Run is a market rate property.
- 8 It's not low-income houseing. Stony Run's current
- 9 rents, according to apartments.com where they
- 10 advertise, are anywhere from seventeen-thirty a
- 11 month to twenty-two eighty-four a month and this
- is directly from apartments.com.
- 13 It's an average rent of about two
- 14 thousand dollars per apartment. If you voted for
- 15 a thirty percent reduction in rent on that two
- thousand, that'll be six-hundred-dollar increase
- 17 per -- in rent per month per apartment. There are
- 18 two -- I believe, there's two hundred and sixty-
- 19 seven apartments in Stony Run.
- 20 So six hundred times two hundred and
- 21 sixty-seven apartments is a hundred and sixty
- 22 thousand two hundred dollars a month, the property
- 23 now doesn't have an income to operate. Over the
- 24 course of just one year, that's two million
- 25 dollars.

- 1 Now, if you do a long lookback period of
- 2 three years, like many have suggested during their
- 3 testimony, that would be two million dollars per
- 4 year times three years, which is an additional six
- 5 million dollars. You will literally bankrupt the
- 6 property.
- 7 The owners most likely would abandon the
- 8 property with residents still living in it,
- 9 services would stop, and once the conditions are
- 10 bad enough, the building department would have to
- 11 step in and probably condemn the property due to
- 12 the unsafe conditions with nothing being
- 13 maintained.
- 14 Then you have two hundred and sixty-
- 15 seven families without housing just in Stony Run.
- 16 This doesn't include the other sixty-three
- 17 properties totaling roughly nine hundred and
- 18 thirty units that could have potentially the same
- 19 outcome and become homeless.
- 20 A rent reduction and a long lookback
- 21 period sound great. Who doesn't want to pay less
- 22 rent? We all do. But in reality, when you look
- 23 at the numbers, it's unrealistic. You will not
- 24 have properties left for renters if you vote for
- 25 this. What you will have are landlords that are

- 1 going to turn into slumlords that cannot afford to
- 2 maintain their properties properly due to lack of
- 3 income coming in.
- 4 This is going to bankrupt owners and
- 5 cause buildings to close down and fall into a
- 6 state of disrepair. Then no one has a safe, clean
- 7 place to live. What I would propose would be a
- 8 modest five percent increase for the first year,
- 9 and a one-year lookback period. That comes out to
- 10 a one-hundred-dollar increase on a two thousand
- 11 dollar a month apartment, or seventy-five dollar
- increase on a fifteen dollar a month apartment,
- 13 just to give you an example.
- 14 Even social security this year is giving
- 15 recipients an eight point seven percent cost of
- 16 living increase for 2023. Last year, their cost
- 17 of living increase was five point nine percent.
- 18 For those tenants in Stony Run, for example, let's
- 19 say that the rent went up more than five percent,
- 20 they would have the right to file the appeal and
- 21 potentially have the rent lowered.
- For example, if you're paying two
- 23 thousand a month in rent and the landlord raised
- 24 you fifteen percent, which would be three hundred
- 25 dollars, and they should have only raised you five

- 1 percent, which would have been one hundred
- 2 dollars, you would potentially be entitled to two
- 3 hundred dollars back for each of the months that
- 4 they overcharged you.
- 5 If a twelve-month lookback period is
- 6 adopted, this would mean you could potentially get
- 7 back up to twenty-four hundred dollars. The
- 8 solution benefits most of the tenants and the
- 9 owners, both the tenants and the owners. The
- 10 tenants will know what to expect when it comes to
- 11 renewal time and if they were unfairly increased,
- 12 can go back for up to a year to recoup the
- 13 overpayments.
- 14 The benefits to the landlord are that
- 15 they will be able to pay for the necessities to
- 16 keep the property running and be able to afford
- 17 the increasing costs to keep the property running
- 18 properly in the future. Thank you for your time.
- 19 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you, Tara.
- 20 Any questions for Tara?
- 21 MR. TIERNEY: Just a general question
- 22 about the procedure. So everybody is going to go
- 23 and then ask the questions, and do you guys have
- 24 different proposals? The -- the two property
- 25 owners, do you have different proposals?

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1
               MR. TAMPONE:
                             No.
 2
               MS. PUENTES:
                             I didn't hear you.
                                                  Ι
 3
     don't understand what you said.
 4
               MR. TAMPONE:
                             I'm not sure what you're -
 5
     - what you're asking.
 6
               MR. TIERNEY:
                             Is your proposal the same
     as Tara's?
 8
               MR. TAMPONE:
                             Oh, no, as far as like a
 9
     guideline or anything?
               MR. TIERNEY:
10
                             Yeah.
11
               MS. PUENTES:
                             Yes.
12
               MR. TAMPONE:
                             No, I make --
13
               MR. TIERNEY:
                             Okay.
14
               MR. TAMPONE:
                             -- no determination on
15
     that.
16
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Would you like to
17
               MR. TAMPONE: Yeah, I would -- I would
18
19
     certainly take advantage to speak.
20
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                      Thank you.
21
               MR. TAMPONE: You know, there is --
22
     there's no question that our community is in the
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systematically refused to invest in good housing

depths of the housing crisis. Our -- our city,

our state, and our federal government have

23

24

25

- 1 policy for decades and decades now, and it was
- 2 inevitable that we would be in the situation that
- 3 we are in right now.
- 4 Everyone saw that coming or everyone
- 5 should have seen that coming at the very least.
- 6 We are in a challenging situation, especially
- 7 because, as much as the heartfelt testimony that
- 8 we've gotten in over the last few days and the
- 9 things that have been written in, we really do not
- 10 have a significant amount of data in order to make
- 11 a decision on, and I'm very concerned about that.
- We've heard from just over two percent
- of the units that are covered by E.T.P.A. in the
- 14 City of Kingston. The vast majority of those
- 15 tests -- of that testimony has been from a single
- 16 property here in the City of Kingston from Stony
- 17 Run, and I thank all those people for testifying
- 18 because it's -- you know, it -- it is very clear
- 19 how -- how stressful bad management practices from
- 20 a property owner can affect someone's life, you
- 21 know, and -- and I think one of the things, you
- 22 know, this -- this, what we're creating here is
- 23 rent stabilization, right?
- 24 And -- and I think that it makes
- 25 everyone -- if you know what's coming down the

- 1 pike, it's a lot easier to plan, right? We -- we
- 2 want to make sure that everybody knows what's
- 3 happening going forward, so that they can plan
- 4 their lives accordingly, all right?
- 5 And -- and no one wants a quick change
- 6 in what's happening in housing, and it doesn't
- 7 really matter where you sit in the scheme of a
- 8 housing opportunity. That's a bad thing to happen
- 9 to anyone. I went through everyone that gave us
- 10 testimony and, you know, I have some really mixed
- 11 feelings about what we've seen, which is why I
- 12 kind of really would love to be able to see more
- 13 data.
- 14 You know, according to the testimony
- 15 that we've gotten in recent months or so,
- 16 especially at Stony Run, there's been a
- 17 significant increase in -- in rents, but most of
- 18 the testimony we heard, people declared that they
- 19 had rents that are below HUD's standard of
- 20 affordability according to eighty -- thirty
- 21 percent ... eighty percent A.M.I. numbers for the
- 22 Kingston Economic Area.
- Why that is, it's hard to say. The few
- 24 people that have been and gave us testimony that
- 25 showed that they had been in a unit for quite some

- 1 time, more than a decade. The -- if you look at a
- 2 standard rate of increase compounding for the
- 3 entire time that they were in there, no one that I
- 4 saw exceeded a three percent per year compounding
- 5 rate of increase. I feel like that's pretty
- 6 reasonable.
- 7 Clearly, there's poor actors and I'm
- 8 sure everyone, you know, we're -- we definitely
- 9 have an affordability problem but it's hard to
- 10 make a choice based on the data that we have
- 11 available to us right now to -- that would not be
- 12 easily considered arbitrary.
- 13 We have almost no cost data from
- 14 property owners and I don't know how it's going to
- 15 affect property owners. You know, I -- I've seen
- 16 the after-effects of the 2008 financial crisis,
- 17 almost all of the properties that we own were
- 18 bought as part of that where someone that was a
- 19 property owner fell into financial distress, was
- 20 unable to maintain the property, ended up not --
- 21 most of -- a bunch of the people just left
- 22 because, you know, there -- there were not
- 23 operating utilities and the property was in
- 24 significant state of disrepair.
- 25 Sometimes people were still living there

- 1 and it was in a significant state of disrepair. I
- 2 wouldn't want to be -- try -- in a position to
- 3 make that happen again. And I don't think that
- 4 with the data that we have right now, we can say
- 5 that we can't -- that we won't cause that.
- I mean, I hope that we don't. I
- 7 certainly want to do something that's very
- 8 reasonable. But I -- I cannot make a choice in a
- 9 vacuum. I feel like we really need more data to
- 10 be able to make a guideline that would not be
- 11 easily challenged and would be that I could have
- 12 any amount of confidence in. That's my piece.
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you, Junior.
- 14 Any questions for ...
- 15 MS. INOUYE: I have a question. So to
- 16 clarify, Junior, you think that we should not make
- 17 a decision?
- 18 MR. TAMPONE: I think that if we have an
- 19 opportunity to gather more data, especially, if --
- 20 well, I mean we need to ask our friends at
- 21 D.H.C.R. to answer some questions we asked them
- 22 last time but if we have an opportunity to be able
- 23 to preserve a tenant's right to a Fair Market Rent
- 24 appeal, which was on the table, I don't know where
- 25 it ended up.

- 1 Then -- and we have an opportunity to gather some more
- 2 data without hurting anyone. Currently, no one's rent
- 3 is allowed to go up and if we preserve the right for a
- 4 Fair Market Rent Appeal and spend another, hopefully,
- 5 not more than a couple of weeks or a month to collect
- 6 data, then I think that that would give us the ability
- 7 to make a well-informed decision and maybe that
- 8 decision says that we need a really long lookback and a
- 9 big decrease and maybe it doesn't support that. I -- I
- 10 can't make any ruling on that because I don't think we
- 11 have any -- any significant amount of data that would
- 12 support such a decision.
- 13 MR. TIERNEY: I -- I do have a follow-up
- 14 question. So -- so are you planning on abstaining
- 15 from any vote or do -- do you plan on abstaining
- 16 from a vote we take tonight? I mean we -- we have
- 17 data, we've got testimony from the public, that's
- 18 data, we've got the American Community Surveys,
- 19 that's data, we have data from --
- 20 MS. PUENTES: Closer to the mic.
- 21 MR. TAMPONE: Come closer to the mic.
- 22 MR. TIERNEY: -- data from experts in
- 23 planning and sociology and economics, that's data.
- 24 You know, name any kind of public hearing that
- 25 gets more than two percent of the people affected,

- 1 I -- I would show you a unicorn, that just doesn't
- 2 happen.
- 3 You know, we have the data, we have to
- 4 make a decision, we're obligated to make a
- 5 decision. Carol got her RR1 form, you know, what
- 6 about those tenants at 58 Fair Street? They don't
- 7 have time to wait, these pieces are going to keep
- 8 moving.
- 9 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I -- I'm -- I'm
- 10 going to ask you to try to be less combative in
- 11 asking questions.
- MR. TIERNEY: Sorry.
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: So you don't have
- 14 to answer that question. Any other questions?
- 15 MR. TIERNEY: But you're welcome to.
- 16 MS. INOUYE: I'm -- sure I'll ask
- 17 another question. So you know, I, in addition to
- 18 the testimony that we heard from -- from tenants
- 19 which, you know, I didn't interpret it the way
- 20 that both of you did in terms of the percentages
- 21 of increases that we heard people experienced.
- 22 Since 2019, I heard a lot of people who
- 23 experienced, you know, twenty percent or more
- 24 increases.
- 25 And I also, I guess, you know, I'm --

- 1 I'm -- I -- my -- my question is, do you not
- 2 consider the information, the data that we have
- 3 from -- from Zillow, from the Community Service
- 4 Society, from Ulster County's Planning Board, from
- 5 the ... you know, from the Rental Housing Survey
- 6 to be data or to be, you know, what -- what we
- 7 have, for example, Zillow data that shows us a
- 8 hundred percent increase in rents between
- 9 September 2015 and September 2022, and a thirty
- 10 percent increase from September 2020 to September
- 11 2022.
- 12 The Community Service Society shows a
- 13 twenty-seven percent increase between 2016 and
- 14 2020 for one bedroom and a fifty percent increase
- 15 for two bedrooms. The Rental Housing Survey by
- 16 Ulster County's Planning Board shows that the cost
- 17 of a two-bedroom apartment in Ulster County grew
- 18 by forty-eight percent between 2016 and 2020,
- 19 right.
- 20 So this all seems to me to be relevant
- 21 data that we have and I'm wondering how it has
- 22 factored into your conclusions to make.
- 23 MR. TAMPONE: I'll -- I'll answer your
- 24 question. Most significantly because that data
- 25 unfortunately is not specific to the review of

- 1 this board, right? We are specifically looking at
- 2 sixty-three properties and it's -- when we're
- 3 looking at something as broad as the market data
- 4 that is, I will -- I will say that I -- I one
- 5 hundred percent discount and ignore all Zillow
- 6 data. I've spot checked it on every one of my
- 7 properties and it's incorrect on every single one
- 8 of them.
- 9 And Zillow data is just not -- it is not
- 10 credible at all. They are very clearly a
- 11 marketing company and they're clearly a marketing
- 12 company that profits off of rising markets. So
- 13 they -- they want to make it look like prices go
- 14 up.
- 15 So that aside, you know, the data
- 16 collected by Ulster County and Pattern for
- 17 Progress and whatnot is definitely valuable, but
- 18 it's not specific to -- to the information that we
- 19 actually need, right. So we know that -- that
- 20 rents are changing in the Kingston economic area
- 21 countywide, but we don't know whether or not rents
- 22 changed in most of the properties that our -- that
- 23 our guideline would effect, right.
- 24 So let's just take the example of what
- 25 happens on a small locally owned six-unit building

- 1 that maybe somebody hasn't raised the rent
- 2 significantly in quite a number of years and then
- 3 we require them to lower the rent over -- you
- 4 know, significantly as well.
- 5 Does that push that owner into
- 6 insolvency? How does that support our housing
- 7 market if we're doing that? Right. I think that
- 8 we, if we had more data, we could make a choice
- 9 that we would know whether or not that was
- 10 something we were choosing to do or not. Right.
- 11 But we don't have that information.
- 12 That's -- that's what I'm -- that's what
- 13 I'm going by, you know, the -- the broad
- 14 information is great for broad policy decisions,
- 15 unfortunately, we are dealing with a relatively
- 16 small subsection of the -- the housing market that
- 17 all of those studies are based on, and it -- it's
- 18 just not specific enough to be, I think,
- 19 significantly credible.
- 20 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you, Junior.
- 21 MS. MARTINEZ: I have a question ... So
- 22 you mentioned that you talked or know of small
- 23 homeowners that, you know, it was difficult for
- 24 them to like keep their building or their
- 25 apartments, right? Were they able to submit

- 1 testimony like the -- the tenants and --?
- 2 MR. TAMPONE: I'm -- I'm talking about
- 3 my experience in the rental market in the City of
- 4 Kingston as a whole, not specifically to -- I've
- 5 not -- I'm quite disappointed, actually, that we
- 6 haven't gotten more testimony or almost any
- 7 testimony from any -- from property owners, you
- 8 know, and I'm not quite sure why that is.
- 9 You know, housing is a complex -- it's a
- 10 complex ecosystem, and it needs all the players to
- 11 be able to thrive and that includes certainly
- 12 tenants, but it also includes housing providers.
- 13 And we need to take into account all those
- 14 perspectives.
- And you know, I'm sure, come next year,
- 16 when we have, you know, rental registration data
- 17 and we will be able to make a really sound
- 18 decision, but I -- I fear -- I fear making a very
- 19 arbitrary choice at this point in time.
- 20 MS. MARTINEZ: So with the data that
- 21 you're trying -- more data that you're -- that
- 22 you're asking for, what makes you think that they
- 23 will fill out that information, that survey, you
- 24 know?
- MR. TAMPONE: I don't know, but we

- 1 certainly can try. And if we don't hurt anything
- 2 -- if we can preserve the rights, which, again,
- 3 well, maybe we need -- we need to ask our D.H.C.R.
- 4 whether or not we can answer on this, but if we
- 5 can preserve the rights of people to make a Fair
- 6 Market Rent Appeal, we can know that they are not
- 7 going -- they're ninety-day, you know, time is not
- 8 going to run out, or they will be able to apply
- 9 for a Fair Market Rent Appeal whether or not we
- 10 make a guideline.
- 11 What's the harm in taking some time to
- 12 collect more data? We will start to have the
- 13 rental registration information and whatever they
- 14 can get for us and we'll be able to do our own
- 15 surveying. You know, hopefully, the -- some
- 16 property owners will submit some -- some -- some
- 17 data.
- 18 If they don't, then you know, and we
- 19 give it some time to be able to do that then --
- 20 then that's what we've got, you know. But I mean,
- 21 especially when we're talking about a lookback
- 22 period, if -- if we only have information about
- 23 like changes in rents from one property. I mean,
- 24 we've heard testimony from a few other people, but
- 25 they -- they weren't specific to changes in rents,

- 1 right?
- 2 So if we don't have that information, if
- 3 we survey tenants, you know, with the -- the
- 4 survey that I circulated or any other data
- 5 collection method, I don't really care how it
- 6 works, right? But if we can get that information,
- 7 then we can say there's a period of time where
- 8 rents in a statistically significant portion of
- 9 these properties changed significantly, right?
- 10 And then we can say, all right, if that
- 11 happened in 2019, well, maybe that's where we
- 12 really need to focus on. If that happened in
- 13 2022, that's where we really need to focus on. We
- 14 don't really know that right now, and a lot of the
- 15 tests -- again, a lot of the testimony we got was
- 16 like, very nonspecific. We got a very few dates
- 17 from everybody and, you know, from almost anyone,
- 18 we have a lot -- we have a handful of people that
- 19 said, yeah, my rent changed significantly. I got
- 20 these predatory letters from the management at
- 21 Stony Run.
- 22 That happened, there's no choice --
- 23 there's no doubt that that happened. But did that
- 24 happen everywhere, right? And what -- what do we
- 25 do if -- if -- if I can make a ruling on what was

- 1 going to happen at Stony Run, I'd be happy to do
- 2 that right now. But above and beyond that, I
- 3 found -- I -- we feel very challenged to do so.
- 4 MS. MARTINEZ: I asked because, you
- 5 know, like there was a time for small homeowners
- 6 given the opportunity to submit testimony, the
- 7 same as tenants, and they took, you know, hours
- 8 from their job to come and be on these public
- 9 hearings. We heard over sixty or more, and, you
- 10 know, they -- they took that opportunity and same
- 11 as you, like concerned that small homeowners did
- 12 not, you know, make the time to come here.
- We did hear from like what like three or
- 14 four of the first public hearing and then two on
- 15 the second. So that's why I was asking, like what
- 16 difference would it make from this survey to like
- 17 what was submitted?
- 18 MR. TAMPONE: I also want to see stuff from other
- 19 units, you know, there's great organizing at
- 20 Stony Run. Glad that all those people came out.
- 21 But, you know, we have a very, I mean, I tabulated
- 22 them all, but it's not very many from other units.
- 23 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Just -- just one
- 24 more question in that ...
- MS. INOUYE: I mean, just a point of ...

- 1 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Just one more
- 2 question. And then we'll move on.
- MS. INOUYE: Yeah, just a point of
- 4 information, I have in my notes from the -- from
- 5 the hearings and in our P.D.F.s, you know,
- 6 testimony from 58 Fair, residents of 58 Fair,
- 7 residents of Dutch Village, you know, Michelle
- 8 Hirsch testified about twenty percent increases
- 9 just this summer at Chestnut Mansion.
- 10 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Uh-huh.
- 11 MS. INOUYE: So I -- and Stony Run is a
- 12 pretty significant proportion, right of the
- 13 tenants like affected by E.T.P.A. So I -- the
- 14 fact -- I think the fact that Stony Run tenants
- 15 have a tenant's union, you know, explains why we
- 16 were -- in part, why we were able to hear from so
- 17 many Stony Run tenants.
- 18 Unfortunately, that's not the case at
- 19 all of these properties. So you know, I think we
- 20 do need to not -- be careful not to erase the
- 21 testimony that we've heard from guite a few other
- 22 E.T.P.A. affected properties, including specific -
- 23 for instance, I have one notes from one tenant
- 24 at Dutch Village who had a twenty percent rent
- 25 increase from 2019 to 2022 reported that to us.

- 1 So I just want to correct the -- make
- 2 sure that we recognize that we did actually hear
- 3 those testimonies.
- 4 MR. TAMPONE: Yeah, my notes say that we
- 5 heard from eight different properties out of the
- 6 sixty-three that are covered.
- 7 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you, Tara.
- 8 Thank you -- thank you, Junior. I'd like to turn
- 9 to our tenant representatives. Do you have a
- 10 shared presentation or are we going to get two?
- 11 MS. SOTO: I think we have different
- 12 types of presentations.
- MR. BROWN: Do you want to go first?
- 14 MS. SOTO: Okay. Yeah. My presentation
- 15 --.
- 16 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Go ahead. Please
- 17 turn the mic on.
- 18 MS. SOTO: That helps. Sorry. My
- 19 presentation is much more general and Michael's
- 20 will be much more specific. First thing I want to
- 21 say is, we can't have any delay in the vote. This
- 22 is a hardship for tenants in Kingston.
- 23 I'm sorry about the landlord's
- 24 hardships, but the tenants of Kingston are -- are
- 25 very much affected. The Judge is allowing us to

- 1 proceed and it's in the best interest of the
- 2 tenants of Kingston to vote today.
- At Stony Run, the clock is ticking. We
- 4 have received our notices postmarked November 3rd,
- 5 although it was not delivered until yesterday to
- 6 me and many more are undelivered because the post
- 7 office is overwhelmed and they don't know how to
- 8 deliver the registered mail to two hundred and
- 9 seventy units, ours alone.
- 10 The base rent amount on my form had a
- 11 twenty-five-dollar fee -- twenty-five dollars
- 12 added to the base rent, which I'm assuming is the
- 13 garbage fee that everybody heard so much about.
- 14 It does not include the dishwasher that was
- 15 included previously or the centralized hot air
- 16 heating and air conditioning, which I'm sure the
- 17 hedge fund landlord would like to add separately.
- We have enough data to make an informed
- 19 decision. This is a somewhat general. I know
- 20 that that -- but there are a lot of large
- 21 complexes in -- in this sixty-two apartments. We
- 22 did hear from Dutch Village. We heard from the
- 23 ward two alderwoman that tenants from Chestnut
- 24 were afraid to testify.
- 25 Organizers have spoken with thousands of

- 1 tenants across the City. We had testimony from
- 2 tenant -- tenants who wanted their buildings to be
- 3 included in the E.T.P.A. and were not. We had
- 4 expert testimony from the institutions that are
- 5 policy makers on the subject and we have the
- 6 opportunity to make a onetime rent adjustment that
- 7 counters the actions of so many bad landlords.
- If Mr. Lanzarone is a representative of
- 9 the good landlords, I want to remind you that he
- 10 called us scum and did whatever he could to
- 11 subvert the democratic process and to scare the
- 12 tenants we are struggling to protect.
- My husband's 401(k) is losing money.
- 14 I'm paying inflationary prices in the market at
- 15 the gas pump and in every facet of my life. Why
- 16 should I pay for the inflation on the investments
- 17 of the landlords too?
- 18 I'm -- I am looking at leveling the
- 19 playing field based on those who have been slammed
- 20 with huge rent increases since the City of
- 21 Kingston began discussing the E.T.P.A. in the
- 22 summer of 2019 and before that. A small rent
- 23 decrease or rent freeze doesn't meet the scope of
- 24 the housing crisis.
- I'm looking at what I think is fair and

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- 1 just for the E.T.P.A. apartments in the City of
- 2 Kingston and a onetime rent adjustment. A thirty
- 3 percent decrease and a look back period of five
- 4 years. This is a onetime market adjustment that
- 5 is needed to correct years of rent gouging. This
- 6 is what all future rent adjustments would be
- 7 applied to.
- 8 We're not going to make small negative
- 9 adjustments. That won't work. I think that many
- 10 people did not come and testify because they were
- 11 scared and I think that it is our responsibility
- 12 to protect those people.
- I think it is our responsibility to
- 14 stabilize the rents in Kingston and that as a
- 15 board, we must act now. So that's my emotional
- 16 plea for rent reduction and I turn it over to the
- 17 numbers man.
- 18 MR. TIERNEY: You're being generous. I
- 19 just want to -- so to go off of Carol's because
- 20 our presentation is largely the same. I just
- 21 wanted to --
- MS. INOUYE: ... to the mic.
- 23 MR. TIERNEY: -- to go off Carol's
- 24 presentation, which is largely, you know, we're
- 25 asking for the same figure. So I just wanted to

- 1 cite some of the data and the testimony that we
- 2 received, which I do view as data, because that's
- 3 who came to the meetings.
- 4 Landlords also had the opportunity to
- 5 come and to my understanding six did, including
- 6 one Paul Mersfelder who is calling for a thirty
- 7 percent rent reduction. So even if we averaged
- 8 out the public testimony of what people called
- 9 for, that would be approximately a thirty-five
- 10 percent reduction.
- We decided to be a little bit more
- 12 modest and call for thirty. But we heard -- and
- 13 additionally from tenants, we heard from
- 14 economists at Bard College, sociology professors,
- 15 authors of sustainable development. All cited
- 16 that this -- that a reasonable rent reduction
- 17 would not negatively impact landlords in the long
- 18 term.
- 19 Of course, there will be short-term
- 20 consequences. However, that money is almost
- 21 instantly invested back into our local economy,
- 22 rather than being funneled to a New Jersey
- 23 development or a Brooklyn development.
- 24 Those people can pay their Central
- 25 Hudson bill. They can paint their house -- to

- 1 paint their apartment, which is allowed under New
- 2 York State law. They can shop at our restaurants
- 3 and eat at our stores.
- I, you know, there are so many benefits
- 5 to this. And we were appointed because the City
- 6 was cognizant that there was an emergency. We are
- 7 obligated to act on this emergency and that is a
- 8 thirty percent rent reduction, you know, we're not
- 9 going to come back next year and call for another
- 10 thirty percent rent reduction.
- 11 This is to undo the horrors of the last
- 12 five years, what we heard from tenants that are --
- 13 that their rents were increased by thirty percent,
- 14 twenty-five percent, forty percent. At all of
- 15 these different complexes and single apartments,
- 16 which we did hear from.
- 17 I am also a resident of a non-Stony Run
- 18 property and there is -- I'm sorry. There is all
- 19 sorts of horrors that we heard that are not those
- 20 make me want to puke horrors as some people refer
- 21 to it. That's people, senior citizens who have
- 22 worked their whole lives, who are paying eighty
- 23 percent of their fixed income, seventy percent of
- 24 their fixed income. That is not a sustainable
- 25 situation.

- We have to act and you -- we are going
- 2 to be calling for thirty percent rent reduction
- 3 with a five year lookback period. We believe
- 4 that's reasonable. It was cited by Legal Services
- 5 of the Hudson Valley that that is when this crisis
- 6 really picked up steam.
- 7 So it is up to us to reset that
- 8 reasonable market adjustment back to before pre-
- 9 COVID and even before when gentrification in the
- 10 City of Kingston really took off. That is really
- 11 all I have, but I'm sure there will be questions.
- 12 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you. Thank
- 13 you, Carol and Thank you, Michael. Any questions?
- MS. SOTO: We are unquestionable.
- 15 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yes. I -- I want
- 16 to take a moment and look at the -- and look at
- 17 the law that defines what we are to do here
- 18 together today and I would love if our friends
- 19 from D.H.C.R. could make sure that I'm getting
- 20 this right. I'm going to read from what I believe
- 21 is the current version of the statute.
- 22 A county rent guidelines board shall
- 23 establish annual guidelines for rent adjustments,
- 24 which at its sole discretion, may be varied and
- 25 different for and within the several zones and

- 1 jurisdictions of the board. And in determining
- 2 whether rents for housing accommodations as to
- 3 which an emergency has been declared pursuant to
- 4 this act shall be adjusted, shall consider, among
- 5 other things.
- 6 One, the economic condition of the
- 7 rental -- of the residential real estate industry
- 8 in the affected area including such factors as the
- 9 prevailing and projected (i) real estate taxes and
- 10 sewer and water rates, (ii) gross operating
- 11 maintenance costs, including insurance rates,
- 12 government fees, cost of fuel and labor costs.
- 13 (iii) costs and availability of financing,
- 14 including effective rates of interest. (iv)
- 15 overall supply of housing accommodations and
- 16 overall vacancy rates.
- 17 Two, relevant data from the current and
- 18 projected cost of living indices for the affected
- 19 area. And three, such other data as may be
- 20 available to it.
- 21 My understanding of this statute
- 22 informed by what we heard from our colleagues at
- 23 D.H.C.R. at the beginning of our work in our first
- 24 meeting in September, is that our responsibility
- 25 is to gather the information that we can to pay

- 1 particular attention to the types of data named in
- 2 the statute.
- And two, and to act, right, our -- our
- 4 task is a different part of the law, referring to
- 5 the -- to the -- to setting of F.M.R.A. guidelines
- 6 suggests that we are to act as soon as possible.
- 7 And I -- and I want to make sure that en route to
- 8 that, we do have in front of us the data that's
- 9 required by law.
- 11 I -- I like sat down today and I said I'm going to
- 12 gather data and I'm going to -- I'm going pull
- 13 together as best I can from the information that
- 14 we've shared among ourselves and the information
- 15 that's been provided by D.H.C.R.
- 16 I've identified a couple of -- of pieces
- 17 of information that I think can be useful in
- 18 helping us understand the -- the economic
- 19 conditions of the residential real estate industry
- 20 in the affected area.
- 21 So we are to consider real estate taxes
- 22 and sewer and water rates. We have seen data from
- 23 D.H.C.R. suggesting the real estate taxes in the
- 24 City of Kingston. The real estate tax rates in
- 25 the City of Kingston for non-household, non-

- 1 homestead parcels, have been in a slow decline for
- 2 a decade.
- 3 We have seen information that says that
- 4 water and sewer rates have increased about three
- 5 to four percent annually. Because we don't have a
- 6 -- as we don't have a fine grained set of reports
- 7 about the operating costs of buildings, we may use
- 8 C.P.I. as a -- as an understanding of the cost
- 9 increases that property managers and property
- 10 maintenance have -- have had.
- 11 Until 2021, C.P.I. was an average of
- 12 about one-and-a-half percent annually. 2021 and
- 13 2022 have indeed seen meaningful increases in
- 14 C.P.I. I believe four-and-a-half, four point six
- 15 percent and -- and eight point something. I
- 16 should have written those down, an eight point
- 17 something percent annually.
- I found it useful to contrast C.P.I.
- 19 increases with the annual increases in rent per
- 20 Ulster County's annual survey of rent. And I've -
- 21 I made charts because this was -- this was
- 22 helpful to me. I'm going to hold on to one, I'm
- 23 going to pass charts around. I have -- I think
- 24 that's probably too many in that direction. So I
- 25 don't know.

- 1 So -- so I made charts with -- the two
- 2 charts on the left are the -- the change in -- in
- 3 one bedroom and two bedroom median rents,
- 4 according -- in the City of Kingston according to
- 5 the Ulster County -- Ulster County's annual rental
- 6 survey.
- 7 And the little gray line is C.P.I. And
- 8 then the chart on the bottom on the left is just
- 9 using 2014 as a base year, what that means for
- 10 costs, right. So we can see that the C.P.I., the
- 11 -- like a basket of things that cost a hundred
- 12 dollars in 2014, costs a hundred and twenty-five
- 13 dollars in 2022.
- 14 And the rental -- a hundred dollars of
- 15 rental expense by 2020 was going to cost you a
- 16 hundred and -- a hundred and forty-ish. And --
- 17 and I know that we don't trust Zillow data, but I
- 18 adjusted the Zillow data to get some sense of what
- 19 I thought maybe we could see in 2021 and 2022.
- 20 And seems like it goes up and then I
- 21 made a chart of the Zillow data that Junior has
- 22 advised us not to -- to pay attention to. So
- 23 annual increases in rent in Ulster County's annual
- 24 survey have been above ten percent since 2018,
- 25 which should suffice to cover price increases that

- 1 while elevated, even in 2021 and 2022 are not over
- 2 ten percent.
- 3 Cost and availability of financing. I
- 4 personally have benefited from the great deal of
- 5 availability of financing until spring 2022 and
- 6 historic low interest rates for mortgages. We are
- 7 required to consider the overall supply of housing
- 8 accommodations and overall vacancy rates.
- 9 We -- we are here because of Kingston's
- 10 extremely low vacancy rates. Ulster County and
- 11 other nearby counties have identified region wide
- 12 shortages of housing exacerbated by an inflow of
- 13 homebuyers from New York City and the conversion
- 14 of units into short term rentals and an
- 15 accelerating rate in the last two years that data
- 16 and analysis is from Ulster County and from
- 17 Pattern for Progresses regional surveys.
- 18 The 2021 report on residential real
- 19 estate by the New York State Association of
- 20 Realtors reported that Ulster County, like the
- 21 rest of the State, saw very large increases in
- 22 real estate prices and decreases in inventory
- 23 indicating a very tight real estate market.
- 24 We are also required to consider
- 25 relevant data from current and projected cost of

- 1 living indices for the affected area. And as you
- 2 can see, since 2018, according to Ulster County
- 3 data, Kingston apartment rents have increased
- 4 significantly faster than the consumer price
- 5 index.
- 6 And since 2010 and this is the chart on
- 7 the bottom right on this page. Since 2010,
- 8 according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American
- 9 Community Survey, there has not been a year when
- 10 less than fifty percent of Kingston renters have
- 11 paid more than thirty percent of their income in
- 12 rent.
- 13 A full thirty percent of Kingston
- 14 renters pay more than half their income in rent.
- 15 In other words, more than half of Kingston renters
- 16 are rent burdened and thirty percent are severely
- 17 rent burdened. The third piece of data that we
- 18 are required to consider is other data that are
- 19 being made available to us.
- We've seen that data in the form of the
- 21 testimony from tenants and landlords at hearings
- 22 that we've held. We've seen that data in -- in
- 23 the testimony from experts who provided us with
- 24 their expertise in economics, sociology and urban
- 25 planning.

- We -- we like got a lot of information
- 2 from experts and we got a lot of information from
- 3 -- from our colleagues at D.H.C.R. Who -- who I
- 4 really appreciated, provided us with a depth and a
- 5 breadth of information that I've -- I've tried to
- 6 just like give us a little tour through.
- 7 The thing I want to -- to say here is, I
- 8 think that we have done our statutory
- 9 responsibility, which is to consider these
- 10 particular types of data. As we make our
- 11 decision, I think that we need to make a decision
- 12 that is informed by and rooted in this data.
- 13 And I -- and I'd love to hear
- 14 suggestions about where -- where we might move
- 15 forward as a board to -- to find an adjustment and
- 16 a Fair Market Rent Appeal guideline that I
- 17 imagine will be somewhere between the proposals
- 18 that we've heard from our tenant colleagues and
- 19 our property owner colleagues.
- 20 MR. TAMPONE: Just want to clarify a
- 21 little bit on what you just shared particularly to
- 22 the way that the property tax and school taxing
- 23 system works. Even though the -- the City's
- 24 property tax percentage levy has been relatively
- 25 flat over the last couple of years, due to

- 1 comprehensive reassessment done by Mr. Baker, who
- 2 was just here a second ago.
- 3 Property of the -- actual amount of
- 4 property taxes that property owners have needed to
- 5 pay has gone up significantly. I just started to
- 6 map that for the properties affected here, but I
- 7 didn't get it done. I was hoping to be able to --
- 8 to present that here as well.
- 9 But especially school taxes have gone up
- 10 very, very significantly. All properties that are
- 11 under the review of this board are non-homestead
- 12 and pay the highest rate of -- of taxes in -- in
- 13 the City of Kingston.
- 14 Also, in regards to the cost of capital,
- it should be noted that commercial notes don't
- 16 work the same way that your regular thirty-year
- 17 home mortgage does. They're typically floating
- 18 notes. So now that rent rates are going up
- 19 significantly though, the cost of capital that an
- 20 owner is paying on one of those properties is
- 21 likely to go up significantly.
- 22 And, you know, as I'm sure everybody is
- 23 aware of, you know, cost of capital has more than
- 24 tripled in the last couple of months. So to be
- 25 aware of that, you know, it's a -- it's an

- 1 important, you know, a lot of people look at it
- 2 from a basic homeowner perspective and it's not
- 3 the same when we talk about commercial property,
- 4 which all these properties are.
- 5 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you.
- 6 MS. PUENTES: I'm -- I'm hearing two
- 7 things. I'm hearing Junior say that property
- 8 taxes are going up and I'm hearing Noah saying
- 9 that property taxes have gone down. So what am I
- 10 -- what am I to think?
- 11 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Property tax rates
- 12 have gone down, but property values have gone up
- 13 or assessed property values have gone up. Which
- 14 means that both the buildings that -- that people
- own are more valuable and that they pay a larger
- 16 number of dollars in tax even when they pay a
- 17 smaller rate of tax.
- 18 MS. PUENTES: So -- so to be clear the
- 19 home -- the property owners, who we will make
- 20 decisions about their rates. Their -- their tax
- 21 rates have gone up, they are paying more taxes?
- 22 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: They -- they are
- 23 paying less tax per thousand dollars of assessed
- 24 value. The assessed value has also changed.
- 25 MS. PUENTES: But they -- and in dollars

- 1 and cents, they'll be paying more?
- 2 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah.
- 3 MS. PUENTES: Yes.
- 4 MR. TAMPONE: Yeah. To the tune of at
- 5 least four -- four-ish percent or more in a year
- 6 over year at a minimum. Four, yeah, four percent
- 7 especially in terms of school property taxes,
- 8 yeah. Which have been continuing to go up, the
- 9 city property tax levy has been relatively flat
- 10 but the school rates have changed.
- 11 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I'm looking at it
- 12 right now.
- 13 MR. TAMPONE: I pay it every year. It
- 14 goes up.
- MS. PUENTES: Noah, Noah, this chart
- 16 that you gave us, these two on the left-hand side.
- 17 The top is what the rents are and the bottom is to
- 18 represent what a landlord's cost. Is that what
- 19 you're saying?
- 20 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: None of this
- 21 represents the landlord's costs. The top chart
- 22 represents the change in median rents for a one
- 23 bedroom and a two-bedroom apartment in the City of
- 24 Kingston according to Ulster County's rental
- 25 housing survey.

- 1 And the chart below shows what the
- 2 result of those annual changes are, right. So if
- 3 -- if something's going up five percent a year ...
- 4 are looking at the -- which ... so there's a --
- 5 there's a curve that goes above ten percent first,
- 6 on the top left.
- 7 That curve represents a ten percent
- 8 increase or more than ten percent increase in
- 9 price for a -- the median whichever one bedroom or
- 10 two-bedroom apartment in the City of Kingston
- 11 between 2017 and 2018.
- 12 And then, the next year, there was a
- 13 decrease in the price of a -- regarding the rent
- 14 of a median apartment of the -- of the same number
- of bedrooms. Over time, the -- the -- each year's
- 16 percentage change accumulates, right. If
- 17 something goes up, you know, five percent one year
- 18 and ten percent the year after that. It's -- it's
- 19 gone up to -- and so the bottom chart represents -
- 20 -
- 21 MS. PUENTES: Like compound interest.
- 22 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: -- the compound,
- 23 yeah.
- 24 MS. PUENTES: So none of these charts
- 25 represent property owner expenses?

- 1 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: No. Except
- 2 C.P.I., the consumer price index is included as
- 3 the light gray line on the left hand side.
- 4 MS. INOUYE: Thank you, Noah, for taking
- 5 the time to make these graphs for us. This is
- 6 really helpful. And yeah, I think that it's, you
- 7 know, I also appreciated you just reminding us of
- 8 our statutory responsibility.
- 9 We were told when we first met that this
- 10 year, right, the State would not be able to do the
- 11 survey of all of the E.T.P.A. buildings, right,
- 12 which we can expect in future years. That does
- 13 seem to be the only piece of data that we are
- 14 missing, right?
- And we knew we were missing it when we
- 16 signed up for this job. We knew that we wouldn't
- 17 have it this first year, right? And yet, we would
- 18 be able to gather data and in fact that it was our
- 19 responsibility to -- to gather data in order to
- 20 make a decision in a timely manner, right?
- 21 Because we know that tenants are, you
- 22 know, already being asked to -- to sign onto
- 23 leases, right, already having their rents
- 24 increased illegally and that in order for this law
- 25 to actually be impactful, right, to actually make

- 1 a difference to the people that it's meant to make
- 2 a difference to. It's important that we act in a
- 3 timely manner.
- 4 So we all knew that from the beginning
- 5 when we decided to accept this responsibility, and
- 6 we accepted the responsibility to gather data
- 7 actively, which some of us have done. We have
- 8 also, you know, had two public hearings. So we've
- 9 had a huge amount of information.
- Do we have all of the possible
- 11 information that we could have in order to make
- 12 this decision, no. But we knew that we wouldn't
- 13 from the outset, right?
- 14 And so nothing has changed. And I think
- our responsibility is still to make the best
- 16 decision we can with the best data that we can
- 17 gather. Looking at this data and the data that we
- 18 were presented with, you know, what -- some things
- 19 that seemed clear to me are that, you know, rent
- 20 increases have gone up more than ten percent each
- 21 year since 2018.
- Which covers the price increases that we
- 23 can expect that, you know, landlords experienced
- 24 during that time -- that time period. And we know
- 25 that actually, you know, since 2018 -- that it's

- 1 been more than a ten percent increase each year,
- 2 right, we have pretty -- we have a basis for
- 3 believing that.
- We have the data that's been -- that
- 5 people have seen a fifty percent increase for two
- 6 bedrooms from 2016 to 2020 and we have reason to
- 7 believe that it's been more steep since then. So
- 8 you discount the Zillow data. I'm not sure, you
- 9 know, that we should completely discount that
- 10 data.
- 11 But, you know, given that is what
- 12 we have from 2020 to the present and it shows a
- 13 thirty percent increase, right, from September
- 14 2020 to September 2022, we're looking at, you
- 15 know, an eighty percent increase since 2016,
- 16 right, for an average rent, for a two bedroom.
- 17 And we can -- we can say like, maybe the Zillow's
- 18 numbers might be -- maybe they're on the high
- 19 side.
- 20 All right. So whether -- are we looking
- 21 at a sixty percent increase then, right, that is
- 22 still -- that still covers what we can assume the
- 23 increase in, you know, inflation and C.P.I. rate
- 24 has been in that time period.
- 25 So on the basis of the data that we

- 1 have, I think a significant rent decrease is
- 2 reasonable, more than reasonable. And I think the
- 3 question is, what -- what does that decrease look
- 4 like.
- 5 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mike, do you mind
- 6 if I put you on the spot? What are you -- what
- 7 are you thinking about?
- 8 MR. BROWN: I don't know. I got to be
- 9 honest, there's a lot of information that I think
- 10 we're missing. I'm going to be honest, as a
- 11 tenant and a member of the public. I just don't
- 12 feel like we have the information needed from the
- 13 landlord side of things in a more deeper level.
- 14 And I think we just need to try to get
- 15 that information, as like Anthony was saying, that
- 16 rents are on freeze. I think it's important that
- 17 we try to get as much information as possible as
- 18 quickly as possible.
- 19 MR. TIERNEY: Can I just state something
- 20 to that point?
- MR. BROWN: Okay.
- 22 MR. TIERNEY: So this rental emergency
- 23 started by the City on August 1 of this year.
- 24 MR. BROWN: Correct.
- 25 MR. TIERNEY: So the rental emergency

- 1 was determined by the City on -- starting August 1
- 2 this year. In that time period, we have been
- 3 appointed, we've had now three meetings, including
- 4 two public hearings. It's been two months since
- 5 that start time. It's actually been three.
- 6 Landlords have had time. They are --
- 7 have shown that they're not interested in
- 8 providing data to this board because they view it
- 9 as illegitimate. And they have had that
- 10 opportunity to come in good faith and provide data
- 11 and they have not done so.
- 12 That's not our problem, you know, yet
- 13 why are we discounting the nearly hundred tenants
- 14 who came when, you know, why are we hold -- giving
- 15 them less water than we're giving these imaginary
- landlords, who don't live in our community, who
- 17 have, you know, decided to circumvent the process
- 18 by filing a lawsuit saying that we have no right
- 19 to even make these decisions.
- 20 So -- so I really do find some
- 21 difficulty with, you know, we can't be waiting on
- 22 people who aren't acting in good faith.
- 23 MR. BROWN: Perhaps they had that time
- 24 to be part of the situation --.
- MS. PUENTES: We can't hear you.

- 1 MR. BROWN: I'm sorry. Do they not want
- 2 to speak because of the lawsuit, I don't know why
- 3 they wouldn't want to be part of this at all. If
- 4 that's the case, I mean, with only eight out of
- 5 the sixty-three properties represented.
- I just don't believe that there's enough
- 7 information from that side that we're just
- 8 saturated with tenant stories and not enough
- 9 active data, I just don't ...
- 10 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I'd like to ask
- 11 our colleagues at D.H.C.R., what is the response
- 12 rate generally to the annual registrations that
- 13 landlord, landlords -- landlord answer annual
- 14 surveys and that's the data that this board and
- 15 all other boards get. What's the response rate
- 16 for those surveys?
- 17 MR. STECKER: Yeah. I don't know if
- 18 this would be picked up, but it varies from county
- 19 to county. I think in Westchester it's around
- 20 forty percent range. I think Rockland is
- 21 somewhere around there. April and I are not
- 22 involved with the Nassau County guidelines boards.
- 23 I couldn't give you a good estimate on that.
- 24 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: All right. Peter
- 25 says that it was -- it's -- it's generally in the

- 1 forty percent range in Westchester and Rockland
- 2 counties and he doesn't have detailed information
- 3 about the other boards because they're not the
- 4 place where he works all the time.
- 5 MR. TAMPONE: Can I ask a question of
- 6 the DHCR people? Well, there was a question on
- 7 whether or not you'd be able to accept ... that
- 8 Fair Market Rent Appeals without a guideline. Is
- 9 there an answer on it?
- 10 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: I promised that it
- 11 took less than a minute, Mike. Yes, tenants would
- 12 be able to go online and file the RA-89, check off
- 13 the fair market rent and put in Kingston and it
- 14 will be a placeholder for them for the ninety
- 15 days.
- 16 So the -- you know, what I've gotten
- 17 from Saturday and today is that at least then
- 18 Stony Run tenants have begun to receive those
- 19 certified mails. So they would be able to save
- 20 their spot to file a Fair Market Rent Appeal with
- 21 the additional information if the board doesn't go
- 22 into that.
- 23 MR. TAMPONE: So just to clarify that, a
- 24 tenant could reserve their right to a Fair Market
- 25 Rent Appeal by filing that form now whether or not

- 1 I'm going to make a ruling in this moment. And a
- 2 tenant is also protected against the rent change
- 3 from August 1st until we make a guideline ruling.
- 4 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: Yes. And tenants are
- 5 already protected from a change in rent just by
- 6 the fact that the -- that the City adopted
- 7 E.T.P.A., no landlord should be given an increase
- 8 as of August 1st, until the board sets the
- 9 quideline.
- 10 MR. TAMPONE: Thank you.
- 11 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I -- I would like
- 12 to return to our responsibility, which is Section
- 13 Nine B of the relevant law which says the rent
- 14 guidelines board shall promulgate as soon as
- 15 practicable after its creation guidelines for the
- 16 determination of fair market rents for housing
- 17 accommodations.
- 18 As to which an application may be made
- 19 pursuant to the subdivision and the law -- the law
- 20 does ask that we -- that we act as soon as
- 21 practicable. I -- at our first meeting, we -- we
- 22 -- I believe we were advised to be speedier than
- 23 we ended up -- than we ended up scheduling.
- I think that we scheduled at the -- at
- 25 the sort of slow end of the process that was

- 1 recommended. I think that we are -- we are at the
- 2 limits of what I think is reasonable as -- as soon
- 3 as practicable. I would encourage us to make a
- 4 decision about Fair Market Rent Appeals and an
- 5 annual adjustments either today or on Monday.
- 6 MR. TIERNEY: And just to add to that,
- 7 we specifically chose to wait from -- we
- 8 specifically chose to wait from that first meeting
- 9 several weeks to a month-and-a-half to get that
- 10 data. That's why we waited.
- We could have met, you know, a week
- 12 later, but we wanted to get that data and so we
- 13 did and we have them. So I really don't see the
- 14 need to continue to wait for people who are never
- 15 going to give it to us.
- 16 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mie?
- 17 MS. INOUYE: I'm wondering if it would
- 18 make sense, you know, to -- we're having two
- 19 discussions. Like we're having one discussion
- 20 about the timeframe and we're having another
- 21 discussion about the, you know, the adjustment and
- 22 the look back period, you know, maybe we -- maybe
- 23 it would -- would it make sense to, if Junior or
- 24 anyone else wants to make a motion to delay, that
- 25 we resolve that question so that we can decide if

- 1 we're actually making the decision this evening.
- 2 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah, we're
- 3 entertaining a motion to delay.
- 4 MR. TAMPONE: There was one other
- 5 question for D.H.C.R. on whether or not you
- 6 withhold the data of a survey that I proposed
- 7 roughly a month ago. Is that -- is that something
- 8 D.H.C.R. can do?
- 9 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: I believe at the last
- 10 meeting it came up as a subject. Can you guys
- 11 hear me?
- MS. PUENTES: No.
- 13 MR. TAMPONE: Move a little bit closer.
- 14 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I think we have a
- 15 bad mic.
- 16 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: At the last meeting,
- 17 it came up. The agency offered to take the data
- 18 from your survey and also send the data to the
- 19 owners.
- 20 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Uh-huh.
- MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: A survey to the owners
- 22 whether or not they answered, I don't know, it's
- 23 the same question that's come up, but it would be
- 24 the same thing for the tenant.
- 25 So if that's something the board wants

- 1 to do, then the board can consider that. And I
- 2 understand the concern arising from this.
- 3 MS. INOUYE: Can someone repeat that,
- 4 please?
- 5 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Just -- just real
- 6 loud, just shout.
- 7 MS. INOUYE: You have to -- you have to
- 8 speak to the --.
- 9 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: The agency previously
- 10 had advised the board that they'd be willing to do
- 11 -- to do the survey, to manage the survey. The
- 12 problem is, is that no individual on either side
- 13 of this table can do it themselves because at
- 14 least nine different laws require D.H.C.R. to
- 15 maintain the privacy of that information.
- 16 So they would take the data that you
- 17 have, the survey that you had and they would also
- 18 provide a survey to the owners who submits answers
- 19 to that, I can't give you any information to that
- 20 but, yes, they'll be willing to do that.
- 21 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: If -- if that is a
- 22 thing that this board is interested in doing, it
- 23 would require a delay. I will entertain a motion
- 24 to delay if someone wants to make one.
- 25 MR. TAMPONE: I would make a motion to

- 1 delay that will allow D.H.C.R. to administer the
- 2 survey. We've been asking whether or not it was
- 3 legal for us to do it for weeks now.
- 4 MR. TIERNEY: I think you would have to
- 5 choose a date in your motion.
- 6 MR. TAMPONE: I will propose something
- 7 no more than thirty days. But, you know, I think
- 8 that's probably enough time to do -- to get the
- 9 surveys out or get them filled out.
- 10 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Is there a second?
- MS. PERRY: I second.
- 12 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Is there any
- 13 discussion?
- MS. INOUYE: Just, yeah, just to
- 15 clarify, I mean, my -- my, you know, concern in
- 16 addition to the question of, you know, our
- 17 responsibility to make a decision as -- as
- 18 efficiently as possible is that while Junior is
- 19 great and has -- has clearly, you know, software,
- 20 lots of software, you know, making witnesses, has
- 21 expertise that is relevant to -- to like creating
- 22 the like platform for the survey.
- 23 Like I -- I don't, if I have concerns
- 24 about us, you know, asking the State to administer
- 25 a survey that is not created by anyone who is an

- 1 expert in, you know, making or administering
- 2 surveys on the subject.
- 3 So this is -- it's a different --
- 4 whatever weight is on the table is not, just to be
- 5 clear, the -- the, you know, ninety-day process
- 6 that D.H.C.R. will administer in the future going
- 7 forward. But an expedited, you know, non-
- 8 professional, like survey through a form created
- 9 by a landlord representative on the board.
- 10 So I feel like that is, you know, that I
- 11 have concerns about how -- how legitimate the
- 12 results of that survey will be and I think we
- 13 should take that into consideration.
- 14 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you. I have
- 15 a question for our colleagues at D.H.C.R. Do you
- 16 think that this board, given the data that we have
- 17 considered and the -- and the information in front
- 18 of us. Have we fulfilled our statutory
- 19 responsibility to consider the types of data named
- 20 within the law?
- 21 MR. STECKER: I would just simply answer
- 22 that by saying it's not really our call to make.
- 23 So I'm going to hold back on making any opinion to
- 24 that effect.
- 25 MS. PERRY: Can you repeat what he said

- because I can't hear --.
- 2 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Peter said that it
- 3 is not his opinion to make.
- 4 MR. TIERNEY: So just -- I did take your
- 5 survey, Junior, and I thought it was -- was very
- 6 thoughtful.
- 7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Louder.
- 8 MR. TIERNEY: I thought the survey that
- 9 you had was very thoughtful, but I would not be
- 10 comfortable having a survey issued that we didn't
- 11 see the questions of, we didn't know exactly who
- 12 it was going out to and that would require us to
- 13 make a motion to approve a survey, which would
- 14 require another publicly noticed meeting.
- 15 And during that time, the proceedings
- 16 against residents of 58 Fair Street are going to
- 17 keep going, you know, there's -- there's real
- 18 human costs to waiting and I just don't think
- 19 that, you know, what we're waiting for is not
- 20 going to achieve the result that we all wish it
- 21 would.
- MR. TAMPONE: I do just want to clarify
- 23 that to my understanding any ruling we make will
- 24 not make any change to what's happening in 58 Fair
- 25 Street. Only the ruling of a judge will, which

- 1 hopefully is going to happen. I think that what
- 2 is happening over there is egregious but, I do --
- 3 to my understanding, us making the ruling changes
- 4 nothing there.
- 5 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: We are discussing
- 6 a motion that has been proposed and seconded to
- 7 delay. Any other discussion of the motion on the
- 8 table? Hearing none, I will call a question.
- 9 Carol? Sorry. The question is ...
- 10 MR. TAMPONE: I'd like to make a motion to delay in
- 11 order to have D.H.C.R. administer a survey and, I
- 12 guess, also an additional survey to landlords, which I
- 13 haven't seen what they said they would do. ... up to
- 14 thirty days, but no more than that for us to be able to
- 15 review additional information from all the properties
- 16 and us be able to make a more complete decision.
- 17 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Carol?
- 18 MS. SOTO: I vote no delay.
- 19 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mike?
- MR. TIERNEY: No.
- 21 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mike?
- MR. BROWN: Yes.
- 23 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Diana?
- MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: No.
- 25 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mie?

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1
               MS. INOUYE:
                            No.
 2
               MS. PUENTES:
                             No.
 3
               MS. PERRY: Yes.
 4
               MS. TAMPONE:
                             Yes.
                                   Motion fails.
               MS. PUENTES:
                             Six, three.
 5
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
 6
                                      Thank you.
                                                  The
 7
     motion fails. And -- and we return to our
 8
     discussion towards figuring out where we're --
 9
     where we're going to start proposing motions for
10
     an annual rent adjustment and a Fair Market Rent
11
     Appeal guideline.
12
               I would love to hear suggestions about
13
     where and why. We might pick specific numbers for
14
     either of those things that we're considering.
15
               MS. PUENTES: We have -- we have two
16
     numbers, one from Tara and one from the tenants.
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- 19 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: All right. I'll
- 20 be open to hearing a motion. Let's -- let's start

So maybe both of them can make their motions and

- 21 with a motion -- I will accept the motion on an
- 22 annual adjustment.

see how they fly.

- MS. PUENTES: What do you --?
- 24 MR. TIERNEY: I think you need an
- 25 amount.

17

18

- 1 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I --
- 2 MR. TIERNEY: You're suggesting --
- 3 sorry.
- 4 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: -- I'm open to --.
- 5 MS. PUENTES: You're open to --.
- 6 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I'm open to hear
- 7 someone proposed a motion.
- 8 MR. TAMPONE: We're talking about going
- 9 forward, not -- not -- not into the lookback
- 10 periods.
- 11 MS. PERRY: I will make a motion going
- 12 forward a five percent increase.
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Is that a -- five
- 14 percent increase for a one-year lease, is that
- 15 five percent increase for one-year lease and a two
- 16 year, remember we need to propose adjustments for
- 17 one and two year leases that start between August
- 18 1st, 2023, and September 30th. Sorry, August 1st,
- 19 September -- August 1st, 2022, and September 30th,
- 20 2023. We need a one-year lease adjustment and a
- 21 two-year lease adjustment.
- 22 MS. PERRY: Okay. I make a motion for
- 23 five percent the first year adjustment.
- MR. TAMPONE: I can't hear you.
- 25 MS. PERRY: I make a motion for five

- 1 percent for the first year adjustment and another
- 2 five percent for the second year lease.
- 3 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: All right. So a
- 4 five percent adjustment for a one-year lease and a
- 5 five percent adjustment for two years?
- 6 MS. PERRY: Yes.
- 7 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Any second?
- 8 MS. PUENTES: Second.
- 9 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Any discussion?
- 10 MR. TAMPONE: I wonder, I'm just trying
- 11 to do the math in my head on whether or not it is
- 12 important for us to make a ruling on going forward
- 13 without looking back first. But then we have in
- 14 the event that there is a long lookback period
- 15 with a lower rate then we need to, how does that
- 16 affect us going forward?
- 17 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Junior, I would
- 18 suggest that you could make a motion to table the
- 19 motion before us ... in order to make a different
- 20 motion for us to consider or to continue our
- 21 formal conversation without a motion on the table.
- 22 But we do have a motion that has been
- 23 made and seconded. And so we need to discuss that
- 24 motion until we decide what to do with it.
- 25 MR. TAMPONE: I think that's right.

1 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Okay. I --2 speaking for myself, I am very hesitant to 3 consider a five percent adjustment. I think that the data that we have, showing the -- the real 4 5 rent burdeness of tenants in our community and the hugely escalating rents over the past couple of 6 7 years made me really reluctant to support that. 8 MR. TAMPONE: Do we need to vote on that 9 motion or do we propose an alternative? 10 MR. TIERNEY: You'd have to make the 11 motion to table. 12 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: You could make a 13 friendly amendment to that motion or you could 14 propose, you could make a motion to the table, the motion that is currently being discussed. 15 could table it to a different time of this meeting 16 or you could call the vote. 17 18 Hold on, like we have more experts on 19 Robert's rules here than me. I'm doing my very best but I -- I would defer to our -- our experts 20 in Robert's rules from D.H.C.R. and also I feel 21 22 like Michael is a real expert in Robert's rules 23 But I think those are the -- those are -24 - the things that we need to do is because there's

a motion on the table, we need to discuss it and

25

- 1 hold it and -- and then do something with it.
- 2 MR. TAMPONE: On the discussion, I
- 3 believe that in our current state that that's a
- 4 little -- I think a more modest proposal would be
- 5 more palatable.
- 6 MR. TIERNEY: I'd like to call the
- 7 question, Chairman.
- 8 MS. PUENTES: I didn't hear.
- 9 MR. TIERNEY: I'd like to call the
- 10 question, Chairman.
- 11 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Great. Let's call
- 12 the question. Carol -- sorry, the motion ...
- 13 MS. PERRY: I make a motion for five
- 14 percent for the first year lease and five percent
- 15 for the second year lease.
- 16 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: As a point of
- 17 clarification, is that a five percent increase for
- 18 one year and ten percent for a two year. Because
- 19 the way it's done is you get a one-year lease or
- 20 you get a two-year lease and you need an increase
- 21 depending on what lease the person sought, five to
- 22 both, okay.
- 23 MS. PUENTES: ... five percent.
- 24 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: The motion is five
- 25 for both.

1	MS. PERRY: Either one.
2	MS. SOTO: For either one, five percent
3	for either one.
4	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Okay. The motion
5	is five for both.
6	MS. SOTO: Five for both.
7	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: For a two-year
8	lease.
9	MS. PERRY: Okay.
10	MS. SOTO: Yeah.
11	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Carol?
12	MS. SOTO: I vote no.
13	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Michael?
14	MR. TIERNEY: No.
15	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mike?
16	MR. BROWN: No.
17	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Diana?
18	MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: No.
19	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mie?
20	MS. INOUYE: No.
21	MS. PUENTES: No.
22	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Tara?
23	MS. PERRY: Yes.
24	MR. TAMPONE: No.
25	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: The motion fails.
1	

- 1 Thank you so much everyone.
- 2 MR. TIERNEY: Chairman, I would ask and
- 3 if it's okay with D.H.C.R. that rather than take
- 4 time to just vote no on motions, we stick with
- 5 casual straw polls.
- 6 MS. PUENTES: I can't hear you.
- 7 MR. TIERNEY: I would ask that rather
- 8 than make motions and consume time just for the
- 9 sake of motions and voting no, that we would stick
- 10 to casual straw polls, if that's allowed. I
- 11 believe it is, but I think it's just -- there was
- 12 a lot of time just to have a nine one vote.
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Great. I would love to hear
- 14 other people's ideas about what specific numbers we
- 15 should -- we should do before for either. I guess, I'm
- 16 open to Junior's suggestion that we discuss Fair Market
- 17 Rent Appeal guidelines first.
- 18 MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: I guess, I will go first. So I
- 19 just want to, you know, thank the tenants and the
- 20 landlords that came out and gave their testimony. It's
- 21 been submitted as well but with everything that we have
- 22 to me it's reasonable, like a thirty percent reduction
- 23 and a five year lookback period. And, you know, I am
- 24 open to like negotiation and compromise with others but
- 25 I think that, you know, tenants, yeah, they have to be

- 1 protected. And I understand the small homeowners also
- 2 need to be protected but I think that -- yeah, I don't
- 3 see, like a big from them not making an income.
- 4 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you.
- 5 MS. INOUYE: Yeah, I think we -- I
- 6 really appreciate, you know, the landlord
- 7 presentations and tenant presentations. I -- it's
- 8 important, obviously, that we make a decision
- 9 that's -- that has a reasonable basis in the
- 10 evidence that we have and that is fair, that takes
- 11 into consideration, you know, the interests and
- 12 needs of landlords and tenants.
- I think that, you know, on the basis of
- 14 the data that we do have, you know, it seems to
- 15 suggest that since 2016, we've seen, you know,
- 16 upwards of a sixty percent increase in rents for a
- 17 two-bedroom apartment, right.
- 18 So it seems to me, you know, based on
- 19 that -- based on the -- the information we have
- 20 about C.P.I. and real estate taxes and sewer and
- 21 water rates that, you know, landlords have -- have
- 22 certainly been, you know, making a great deal of
- 23 profit, right, since 2018.
- 24 And that this rapid increase in the
- 25 rents is not sustainable, right. And it needs to

- 1 be -- it needs to be stabilized. And so I think
- 2 on the basis of -- of that -- of that data a
- 3 thirty -- thirty percent decrease is reasonable.
- 4 I think it can be justified and we're able to --
- 5 be able to absorb that given what's happened over
- 6 the past five years.
- 7 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: We've -- we've
- 8 heard -- we've heard numbers from ... the number,
- 9 but like, I'm curious where -- where you're coming
- 10 from ...
- MR. BROWN: So my thoughts -- and can I
- 12 give a number of --?
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah -- yeah.
- MR. BROWN: So what I'm thinking is just
- 15 going forward and leases to come in the future,
- 16 I'm thinking five percent on a one-year lease and
- 17 a three-and-a-half percent on a two-year lease
- 18 being reasonable going forward.
- 19 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Sorry, five
- 20 percent -- a positive five percent or negative
- 21 five percent?
- 22 MR. BROWN: A positive five percent.
- 23 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Five percent.
- 24 MR. BROWN: ... future only, yeah. And
- 25 three-and-a-half percent on two-year.

- 1 MS. INOUYE: I just have a guestion like
- 2 what -- what -- what is the basis for those
- 3 numbers in your view?
- 4 MR. BROWN: Rent stabilization, just
- 5 trying to get a sound round number that everybody
- 6 can kind of work with and if that's going forward,
- 7 that's one thing, but rent go back and decreases a
- 8 different subject that we're talking about.
- 9 So annually going forward in
- 10 renovations, I mean, everything's going to have to
- 11 go up at some point. And we have to cover some of
- 12 it, whether landlords recoup from that completely,
- 13 I don't know. And a tenant won't obviously, but
- 14 as a ground break somewhere to make it fair for
- 15 somewhere in the middle, I'm thinking that's where
- 16 I'm coming from, ... as far as rental back
- 17 quidelines.
- 18 MS. SOTO: I -- I iust want to
- 19 point out that it is possible to --.
- MS. PUENTES: Louder, please.
- 21 MS. SOTO: It is possible to have a
- 22 rental adjustment that is not an increase. You
- 23 know, it's -- it's been very conclusive that
- 24 landlords have been making a lot of money over a
- 25 lot of years and have increased that amount, and

- 1 that they care very little for who gets put out
- 2 onto the street, homelessness and things like
- 3 that.
- 4 And so I think that a rent reduction is
- 5 the only answer for a one time market adjustment.
- 6 MR. TIERNEY: And -- and just to speak
- 7 further to that, you know, we -- sorry, so we
- 8 heard from person after person who stated that,
- 9 you know, they pay thirty percent of their income,
- 10 thirty-five percent of their income. Obviously,
- 11 I'm going to highlight Mrs. Rosie, who's lives on
- 12 a fixed income and pays eighty percent of that.
- 13 A five percent increase is simply
- 14 unaffordable to them, and that is -- that pushes
- 15 people to make health choices, the damage is done,
- 16 you know. We're here to set the rents, but there
- 17 are consequences, you know, we keep talking about
- 18 how much the cost of paint is going to go up.
- 19 But the -- there's human health costs to
- 20 increasing rents beyond sustainable means, which
- 21 they're already unsustainable. So I do feel like
- 22 we're obligated to roll back the rent and it's not
- 23 a, you know, roll back.
- 24 This is an adjustment for one and two-
- 25 year leases, we are perfect -- as Carol said,

- 1 we're perfectly allowed to -- to have a negative
- 2 rental adjustment, and I -- I strongly urge the
- 3 board to consider that.
- 4 MR. TAMPONE: I kind of want to
- 5 piggyback off of what Carol just said and I think
- 6 --.
- 7 MS. PUENTES: A little louder, please.
- 8 MR. TAMPONE: I want to piggyback off of
- 9 what Carol just said and I think that it's
- 10 important to recognize the types of property
- 11 owners that we're dealing with and when -- when
- 12 you got a local property owner it is much more
- 13 likely that that individual is going to care about
- 14 whether or not somebody goes out on the street and
- 15 whether or not somebody is struggling in that
- 16 particular housing situation.
- 17 They're your neighbor or somebody that
- 18 you might know, you might know that person in the
- 19 face. You might see them because they live down
- 20 the block. If we create a situation where we --
- 21 if we do a big rent decrease, the large
- 22 corporations are going to be able to figure it
- 23 out.
- 24 They will either declare bankruptcy, or
- 25 they will liquidate their assets. I'm not worried

- 1 about the billionaires that -- and whether or not
- 2 they're going to be able to handle this. You
- 3 know, I'm sure that the owners behind the Kingston
- 4 village group are going to be fine no matter what
- 5 we say, all right.
- I am concerned about what happens to the
- 7 -- the local and smaller owners and what happens
- 8 to them and if they're pushed to insolvency
- 9 because what's going to end up happening is the
- 10 only person willing to take the risks, the only
- 11 organizations willing to take the risk to take on
- 12 those properties that those people need to
- 13 liquidate are going to be the larger corporations
- 14 that will be able to deal with losses over a
- 15 period of time and hope that something is going to
- 16 appreciate.
- 17 And we lose local control and we lose
- 18 local -- that money can get back into our local
- 19 economy and we might inadvertently over time
- 20 exacerbate the exact problem that we're trying to
- 21 fix. I just want to put that in everyone's head
- 22 and really think about that. I wish we could make
- 23 two different classes of guidelines, I really do.
- 24 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I --.
- 25 MR. TIERNEY: Just to quickly --

```
1
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     Yeah.
 2
               MR. TIERNEY: -- rebuttal. So there's
 3
     no evidence that that happened --
 4
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     Speak up.
 5
               MR. TIERNEY: -- there's no evidence
     that that happens, you know, what you're referring
 6
 7
     to that just has not happened in Ossining, that
 8
     has not happened in Westchester. You know, there
 9
     are still small landlords in those communities.
10
               And we -- we heard time and time again,
11
     most of those people who were being evicted were
12
     being evicted by small landlords. So I -- I do
13
     sympathize with somebody who bought a house, but
14
     unfortunately, that's -- that's just the way we --
15
     we have to make these laws that, you know, those
16
     tenants help the -- the local economy just as much
     and if not more.
17
               And like I said before, if we put more
18
19
     money in their pockets, they're the ones going to
     our stores, they're the ones going to our
20
21
     restaurants. You know, that -- that's, you know,
22
     it's -- it's the -- it's the working class that
23
     drives the economy. And I just don't see, you
24
     know, your nightmare scenario coming to fruition.
25
               MR. TAMPONE:
                             It's not a nightmare
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- 1 scenario, but it's a -- it's pumping that money
- 2 out of the economy. It's when those small local -
- 3 that small local incremental -- incremental
- 4 development that our county and our city is
- 5 working hard to try to promote.
- If that no longer becomes solvent then
- 7 only large corporations are going to be able to
- 8 invest in that kind of housing and we know that's
- 9 -- that is trend that has been happening
- 10 nationwide for decades now. It's what was putting
- 11 us in this type of a situation to begin with.
- 12 And I think that's what we all really
- 13 want to avoid, all right, we don't want any brand,
- 14 even if it's a reduced brand that people are
- 15 paying then it come our of our local economy, and
- 16 that's what is eventually going to happen if we're
- 17 only looking at large corporations. If we're only
- 18 looking at Zillow buying up houses, you know,
- 19 that's -- that is a trend that is happening
- 20 nationwide.
- 21 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you -- thank you. I want
- 22 to remind us that this board's purview is setting the
- 23 annual adjustments for -- for one or two year leases
- 24 signed and the period of time sometimes get on an
- 25 account and setting a fair market rent adjustment we

- 1 have -- we have the responsibility to do that and we
- 2 have no capacity to do anything else.
- 3
 I -- looking at the data, I see really
- 4 clearly that rents are unaffordable, rents have
- 5 escalated significantly in recent years and -- and
- 6 we -- and -- and I think that our responsibility -
- 7 when I'm -- when I'm thinking about our
- 8 responsibility, I think our -- our responsibility
- 9 is in -- in some part our responsibility is to
- 10 adjudicate a zero sum game between landlords and
- 11 tenants, right.
- 12 Like, every -- every percent that we
- 13 reduce rent is decrease in landlord income. Every
- 14 percent we increase rent is a reduction in the --
- 15 the -- like, money that tenants can spend on food
- 16 and medicine and, you know, occasional vacations,
- 17 right.
- 18 And I -- I hate that, right? I -- I
- 19 like -- don't like -- I don't like the fact that
- 20 that's where we're at, but that is -- that is
- 21 where we're at. And looking at the way that the
- 22 housing market in recent years has been the -- the
- 23 way that landlords have been winning in the
- 24 housing market and tenants have been -- have been
- 25 suffering in -- in the housing market.

- 1 And I think in ways that don't match the
- 2 -- the best estimate I can come up with for
- 3 reasonable cost increases. I think that it -- I
- 4 think that a modest negative rent adjustment is an
- 5 appropriate response to the facts that are in
- 6 front of us.
- 7 I -- I would -- I would suggest a
- 8 negative five percent adjustment for one-year
- 9 leases and a negative five percent adjustment for
- 10 -- for two-year leases. I think that that -- I
- 11 think that a -- I think that a smaller decrease in
- 12 rents would not match the facts on the ground,
- 13 right. I think a smaller -- a smaller decrease in
- 14 rent would be an inadequate response to the data
- 15 that we have in front of us.
- 16 And I think that a whole lot larger of a
- 17 decrease in rent would threaten the -- the
- 18 stability of the rental market, the way that we've
- 19 seen the ten percent increases the like, the --
- 20 who knows what percent increases, because we don't
- 21 have data on them, that have happened over the
- 22 past couple of years without the interventions of
- 23 this board.
- I think that we've seen real
- 25 destabilization in the rental market in -- in

- 1 Kingston and I think it's -- I see a
- 2 responsibility to -- to -- to do some
- 3 stabilization in -- in the rental market, in line
- 4 with the data in front of us and I think a
- 5 negative five percent adjustments is a reasonable
- 6 response to -- to the facts on the ground.
- 7 MR. TAMPONE: I think I could agree that
- 8 you -- your proposal might be within the range of
- 9 something I could consider reasonable. I would
- 10 like to make one other clarification. There was
- 11 some talk about whether or not we could set a
- 12 guideline for properties including utilities and
- 13 ones that did not.
- 14 I think that's a careful consideration
- 15 because if -- if a -- if a property owner is
- 16 paying for utilities in this current market, that
- 17 could be very significant and it's really a
- 18 different game for one paying utilities and one
- 19 that's not. All right, we can -- we can do that,
- 20 right?
- 21 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: We can, yeah.
- 22 MR. TAMPONE: Okay. Just -- just making
- 23 sure.
- 24 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Arlene, Mike,
- 25 what -- what -- what do you think of that -- that

- 1 -- that pitch?
- 2 MS. PUENTES: I have nothing intelligent
- 3 to add to the discussion.
- 4 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I'm not going to
- 5 comment yet.
- 6 MR. TIERNEY: So we -- we highlighted a
- 7 lot of the -- the data about area median income
- 8 and -- and rent burdening, which it's not -- so --
- 9 so we highlighted and -- and spoke about the --
- 10 the percentage of our neighbors who are rent
- 11 burdened and severely rent burdened.
- 12 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah.
- 13 MR. TIERNEY: I would like to point out
- 14 that that's not a hard number. You don't
- instantly become rent burdened at thirty percent.
- 16 So you know, you are struggling just as much and
- 17 are a paycheck, you know, are a car accident or a
- 18 -- a firing or a -- a health incident away from
- 19 loo -- from losing your home.
- 20 And so -- which at the end of the day,
- 21 we keep calling them units, but these are people's
- 22 homes. And so -- so I don't think in this -- in
- 23 this climate that -- that a five percent is really
- 24 enough, you know, for -- for those residents who
- 25 are on fixed incomes and are paying sixty, seventy

- 1 percent of their income.
- 2 A five percent reduction still means
- 3 that they are paying more than half of their life
- 4 just to have a roof over their head. I -- I -- I
- 5 really think that needs to be strongly considered.
- 6 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Okay. I -- I'm
- 7 the chair and I'm going to give myself permission
- 8 to respond. I think -- I think you're right, I
- 9 think that you're absolutely right. That -- that
- 10 for many people a five percent reduction is a big
- 11 difference between being able to -- to make rent
- 12 and not make rent.
- I would suggest that -- that there's
- 14 room to meet -- to -- to meet the particularly
- 15 egregious escalations of rent, to -- to intervene
- 16 in -- in those using the fair market rent appeal
- 17 guidelines. And I would -- I would make a pitch
- 18 for -- for thinking about a relatively modest
- 19 annual adjustment and pairing it with a -- a fair
- 20 market rent appeal guideline that -- that we think
- 21 could curtail the worst abuses that -- that we've
- 22 seen.
- 23 And -- and I -- I would -- I would make
- 24 a pitch for -- for that -- the combination of a
- 25 relatively long look back and a relatively modest

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1 negative adjustment as -- as a meaningful way to
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- 2 intervene in both the market as a whole and in the
- 3 specific circumstances of ...
- 4 MR. TIERNEY: So -- so chairman, and --
- 5 and you can feel free to --.
- 6 MS. PUENTES: Speak a little louder.
- 7 MR. TIERNEY: So chairman, you can --
- 8 please feel free to cut me off. So we came in
- 9 with negative thirty, we have heard from two
- 10 members of the public who believe that negative
- 11 thirty is reasonable --
- 12 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah.
- 13 MR. TIERNEY: -- I -- I think we should
- 14 just -- I don't want to make a motion but I -- I
- 15 would like that -- a straw poll for a thirty
- 16 percent rent reduction, because it seems like
- 17 you're meeting the certain --
- 18 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah, all right.
- 19 MR. TIERNEY: -- class of people a lot
- 20 closer to where they are than you are to us. So I
- 21 would like a straw poll of -- of thirty percent, I
- 22 -- I don't know, you know, hot or cold, but I -- I
- 23 think we've heard from a significant number --
- 24 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah.
- 25 MR. TIERNEY: -- of board members.

```
1
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     Carol, what do you
 2
     think of that negative thirty?
 3
               MS. SOTO: I am hot for thirty percent.
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     Michael?
 4
 5
               MR. TIERNEY: So -- so I -- I would
     support a thirty percent rent reduction?
 6
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     Mike?
 8
               MR. BROWN: No, I don't support thirty
 9
     percent.
10
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     I -- I also --.
11
               MS. : I didn't hear Mike?
12
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     No.
13
               MR. BROWN: I do not support.
14
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     I also don't
15
     support a thirty percent rent reduction.
16
               MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: I would support a
17
     thirty percent reduction.
18
               MS.: Could you repeat that.
               MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: I would support a
19
20
     thirty percent reduction.
21
               MS. INOUYE: I would support a thirty
22
     percent reduction.
23
               MS. PUENTES: No, I wouldn't.
24
               MS. PERRY: I would not support a thirty
25
     percent reduction.
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1
               MR. TAMPONE:
                             I would not.
 2
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: We have a
 3
     responsibility to come to five votes.
                            So I -- I do recognize and
 4
               MS. INOUYE:
 5
     -- the concerns that Junior and Noah have shared
     about, you know, okay. So first -- what I think
 6
     is that thirty percent is reasonable based on the
 8
     data and I want us to -- you know, I haven't
 9
     really heard anyone challenge that, right?
               And in terms of how much we -- we have
10
11
     seen, you know, rents go up in the past five
12
     years, right, and compared to inflation and cost
13
     of -- of living. The concerns that Noah and
14
     Junior are raising are about something else, which
     is the repercussions, right, for the housing
15
     market and for -- for the landlord, right? And I
16
     think that's important to take into consideration.
17
               And so you know, I -- I am open to, you
18
19
     know, I think we should talk about more modest
20
     decreases.
                 I don't think that negative five is at
21
     all sufficient -- a five percent reduction to the
     kind of burden like extreme burden that tenants
22
23
     are carrying right.
24
               And to the rapid increase in rents that
```

we've seen for the past five years. And I don't

- 1 think that we should, if this is part of your
- 2 thinking, Noah, I don't think that we should try
- 3 to do multiple small reductions over a period of
- 4 years.
- 5 I think this is the -- we should think
- of this as one opportunity to try to progress the
- 7 -- the really extreme and things that we've seen
- 8 over the past five years. And from this point on,
- 9 the fact that we'll be making, you know,
- 10 adjustments that are, you know, probably, you
- 11 know, we're probably looking at freezes or modest
- 12 positive reduction, right?
- 13 But I think we should take this
- 14 opportunity to actually, you know, try to make a
- 15 difference to a tenant's ability to live in
- 16 Kingston and not have to leave. And so to me,
- 17 you know, I think what I've proposed honestly, if
- 18 we can -- if we're -- if we can kind of meet more
- 19 folks at something like a fifteen percent
- 20 decrease, which I think would be significant. I
- 21 think it would make a difference to tenants
- 22 ability to, you know, survive and live in
- 23 Kingston.
- 24 And I also think that landlords can
- 25 absorb that, right, I -- I -- I think that

- 1 landlords can, you know, given the profits that
- 2 they made over the past five years would certainly
- 3 be able to -- to absorb the fifteen percent
- 4 decrease this year.
- 5 MS. PUENTES: I'm comfortable with that.
- 6 MS. PERRY: I'm not comfortable with a
- 7 decrease of any kind -- excuse me.
- 8 MR. TAMPONE: I'm still caught up on if
- 9 we're proposing -- depending on the look back that
- 10 we propose and whatever the rate is from the look
- 11 back, that is effectively a decrease. So I think
- 12 that if we -- I think it is -- I don't think that
- 13 we can look at any proposal going forward until
- 14 that's been established because you will end up
- 15 compounding a negative adjustment in the event
- 16 that both things happen.
- 17 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mie, did you want
- 18 to continue the sort of straw poll of what does
- 19 ...?
- 20 MS. PUENTES: Sure, yeah, I'd like to
- 21 know what other people think about fifteen.
- 22 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Carol, where are
- 23 you at on fifteen?
- 24 MS. SOTO: I'm at twenty percent is my
- 25 bottom number.

- 1 MS. PUENTES: You have to speak to the
- 2 microphone.
- 3 MS. SOTO: I'm sorry.
- 4 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: You have to turn
- 5 it on.
- 6 MS. SOTO: My -- my bottom number is
- 7 twenty percent right now.
- 8 MR. TIERNEY: We said fifteen right now?
- 9 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah.
- 10 MS. PUENTES: I -- I can't hear you.
- 11 MR. TIERNEY: I'm a little hesitant but
- 12 I -- I think it's closer than five.
- MR. BROWN: No on fifteen.
- 14 MS. PUENTES: I didn't -- I didn't hear
- 15 you.
- MR. BROWN: No.
- 17 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I want another
- 18 minute to think so I'm going to punt to you Diana.
- 19 MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: I would support it.
- 20 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I think, Mie,
- 21 you're -- I think we're -- we're close, one thing
- 22 that I didn't -- that like matters to me is
- 23 fairness. And I think this is something that
- 24 you're, Junior's hinting at, in -- in thinking
- 25 about, like what's the relationship between the

- 1 fair market rent appeal guidelines and the annual
- 2 adjustment.
- 3
 I think that if -- if we -- if we set a
- 4 fair market rent appeal guideline that says ...
- 5 like just as example, for a four-year lookback
- 6 period, a maximum of five percent adjustments or
- 7 five percent increases over the -- five percent
- 8 annual increases over that period of time for the
- 9 tenants who have had -- for the tenants who have
- 10 had rent increases meaningfully higher than that.
- 11 That fair market rent appeal process is
- 12 a -- is a -- is a huge correction to the rent rate
- 13 and that -- and that changes the rent effective
- 14 August 1st. It -- it gets refunded the amount of
- 15 rents over the guideline for the two years, for up
- 16 to two years before the effective date before that
- 17 August 1st.
- 18 And then the adjustment that -- with the
- 19 annual adjustment that we said gets applied to the
- 20 -- the post fair market rent appeal initial legal
- 21 regulated rent, right. So I think that -- I think
- 22 Junior is right in naming a -- a long look back
- 23 period is a correction to those -- those -- those
- 24 twenty percent rent increases that we've heard of.
- 25 And a -- and so when I think about a

- 1 fifteen percent -- negative adjustment of fifteen
- 2 percent, I hear like that is inadequate to -- to
- 3 bring the rents at the -- at the places that we've
- 4 heard of that have -- have raised rents -- and
- 5 raised rents -- and raised rents beyond what's
- 6 reasonable causing the rent emergent -- the
- 7 housing emergency in Kingston.
- 8 It's an -- it's an inadequate response
- 9 to those unfair market rents, and for buildings
- 10 where the rent hasn't gone up that much. And we
- 11 don't have evidence that there are those
- 12 buildings. We don't know anything about whether
- 13 or not there are those buildings.
- 14 But for buildings where the rent has not
- 15 gone up at an enormous pace, a negative fifteen
- 16 percent adjustment would feels -- feels unfair to
- 17 landlords who were better behaved.
- 18 MS. INOUYE: I think we have the fair
- 19 market rent appeal is fairer in the sense --
- 20 fairer or more precise tool than the decrease in
- 21 the sense that it is case by case. But there are
- 22 huge problems with it as well, one being that
- 23 complicated to figure out what you need to do and
- 24 what it is and how to file it, right.
- 25 And -- and so I -- we've -- we've

- 1 discussed this as a board, we've looked at the
- 2 forms, it's pretty confusing. There's a short
- 3 window for filing, that's all -- we're already
- 4 well into for -- for filing those forms.
- 5 And so there -- I -- I think it's
- 6 unfortunately unlikely that many tenants will be
- 7 able to make use of it. I -- it also takes a long
- 8 time from what I understand to process, right.
- 9 And we know that we're in an emergency, which
- 10 means that people are being evicted now, right,
- 11 and potentially having to move out of Kingston.
- And so you know, we need to do something
- 13 this year that addresses the extent of the
- 14 emergency, which is why I think that fifteen
- 15 percent as a reduction is necessary.
- 16 MR. TAMPONE: I think that the -- let's
- 17 say the fair market rent appeal process works the
- 18 way it should, in the way that it's designed as
- 19 far as I understand it, you very well -- let's
- 20 say, we said even mildly significant look back
- 21 period and what would be, I mean, you know, based
- 22 on -- let's say, the five percent number that we
- 23 use for egregious rent increases and just cause
- 24 eviction here in Kingston.
- 25 If we consider that to be the guideline,

- 1 which it is the marker for all non-regulated
- 2 properties in the City of Kingston. It is
- 3 certainly feasible that a number of tenants that
- 4 had had egregious rent increases may get a
- 5 reduction of more than thirty percent.
- 6 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yes.
- 7 MR. TAMPONE: And so I think that it is
- 8 the correct tool, given the toolbox that we have
- 9 in order to correct those situations. I do -- I
- 10 guess, before I say that with any confidence from
- 11 DHCR'S point of view or somebody file -- files a
- 12 fair market rent appeal, can they get a new lease
- 13 until that's done or does that process hold their
- 14 new lease at the August 1st rent until that's
- 15 finished?
- 16 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: Can you re-state your
- 17 question?
- 18 MR. TAMPONE: If someone files a fair
- 19 market rent appeal, can their rent change
- 20 differently than it was on August 1st before the
- 21 fair market rent appeal process is completed or
- 22 are there -- is their rent locked in at the August
- 23 1st when ETPA was in effect here until the fair
- 24 market rent appeal process is done?
- MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: They would have to

- 1 pay rent, because otherwise the owner would be
- 2 able to evict them.
- 3 MR. TAMPONE: Yeah.
- 4 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: I, you know, I --.
- 5 MR. TAMPONE: But -- but the August 1st
- 6 rent?
- 7 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: The August 1st rent.
- 8 MR. TAMPONE: Yes.
- 9 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: Yes.
- 10 MR. TAMPONE: Yeah.
- MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: But they would be,
- 12 you know, the guideline is whatever you guys set,
- 13 right?
- MR. TAMPONE: Uh-huh.
- MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: So you set a
- 16 guideline, you set a fair market rent appeal and
- 17 you set up a percentage. I think there's some
- 18 confusion on a rent roll back. You guys are not
- 19 going to set a rent roll back. What you're going
- 20 to do is set a guideline increase for one-year and
- 21 a two-year lease.
- 22 So any leases that come up during that
- 23 period, would be whatever guideline you set, but
- 24 it's not across the board to everybody. And I
- 25 don't -- I can't tell if that's what everybody

- 1 gets or doesn't get. So if you set a guideline, a
- 2 fair market rent appeal, going back whatever time
- 3 period it is, and you set a percentage for what a
- 4 rent increase could be during that time.
- 5 So hypothetically, your earlier question
- 6 was like a twelve hundred dollar rent, right? If
- 7 you set a two-year lookback period and you said in
- 8 that two-year period nobody could have more than a
- 9 five percent increase.
- 10 If an owner collected more than that
- 11 five percent during that period, the tenant would
- 12 file the fair market rent appeal. The agency
- 13 would issue an order rolling the rent back to
- 14 whatever their rent was previously, plus whatever,
- 15 you know, whatever number you guys have picked as
- 16 that number, okay, so --.
- 17 MR. TAMPONE: So what -- can I ... with
- 18 the numbers like somebody's paying twelve hundred
- 19 now. Let's -- let's just say two years ago
- 20 they're paying eight hundred. They file a fair
- 21 market rent appeal. D.H.C.R. says, your rent
- 22 started at eight hundred, and you got a five
- 23 percent increase year over year after that and
- 24 that's what your rent should be now.
- 25 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: Nobody said year

- 1 after year. You guys set a guideline -- you set a
- 2 guideline number, that's the number for that time
- 3 period. So it's not per year --
- 4 MS. TAMPONE: Oh.
- 5 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: -- roll back number -
- 6 MR. TAMPONE: That changes everything.
- 7 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: -- that's the number
- 8 you guys set, right. So if you set, in your
- 9 example, two years ago my rent was eight hundred
- 10 dollars.
- MR. TAMPONE: Uh-huh.
- 12 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: And this board sets a
- 13 guideline -- guideline look back period of two
- 14 years and a percentage increase, whatever that
- 15 percentage is, gets added to the eight hundred
- 16 dollars and anything that's over that -- that
- 17 number, the tenant files a fair market rent appeal
- 18 and the owner is directed to refund that amount of
- 19 money to the tenants.
- 20 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: What about in
- 21 tenancies that have been -- what -- what about the
- 22 folks who started renting that apartment in a
- 23 period of time shorter than the -- the --
- MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: It would --.
- 25 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: -- look back

- 1 period?
- 2 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: Your look back period
- 3 is what -- anything -- so --
- 4 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: So if we say three
- 5 --.
- 6 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: So say hypothetically
- 7 you pick a -- you -- you say ... came into
- 8 Kingston because that's when you --
- 9 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah.
- 10 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: -- were allowed to
- 11 opt in was 2019.
- 12 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah.
- MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: Any leases that were
- 14 signed between 2019 and the day you guys do this,
- 15 any increases that were over whatever percentage
- 16 you sign, you agree to those ten -- it -- it's not
- 17 just a tenant. On the date you set it, it's a
- 18 rolling period.
- 19 So it's from the date you -- your look
- 20 back period is anytime during that look back
- 21 period the tenant could file a fair market rent
- 22 appeal.
- 23 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: And so if -- if a
- 24 tenant -- let's say we -- we pick that 2019 date.
- 25 If a tenant moved in in January 1, 2021, what --

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1 what -- how would the percentage -- would that be
```

- 2 adjusted or would it just be like the -- like it's
- 3 the look back percentage -- sorry, the fair market
- 4 rent appeal guideline percentage of whatever, five
- 5 percent is true whether you were in the unit for
- 6 three years or for two years or for one year, it's
- 7 just the --
- 8 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: It's -- it's within
- 9 that time --
- 10 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Okay.
- MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: -- period, within the
- 12 fair market rent appeal.
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Thank you.
- 14 MS. INOUYE: So just that come back to
- 15 ... fifteen percent so -- no I'm sorry ... talking
- 16 about the question -- the possibility of fifteen
- 17 percent decrease, it sounds like Diana and Arlene
- 18 and I and --
- 19 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Michael.
- 20 MS. INOUYE: -- Michael are -- are on
- 21 board with that. We're not sure about Carol and
- 22 Noah or Carol is not and Noah is not?
- 23 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Not, yeah.
- 24 MS. INOUYE: So then Carol had said
- 25 twenty percent, should we do that, should we

- 1 discuss that as a -- as a -- do a straw poll for
- 2 twenty?
- 3 MS. SOTO: I don't want to be so out of
- 4 line with everybody, you know, I would definitely
- 5 come down to fifteen percent, I just think, you
- 6 know, it's very hard for me to say that because of
- 7 the community that I come from and how many
- 8 apartments have been vacated.
- And how, you know, when you complain
- 10 about anything that happens in the building, that
- 11 they can -- they just offer you an eighteen
- 12 hundred dollar rent, which is, you know, usually
- 13 eight hundred -- eight hundred dollars more, you
- 14 know, that -- that this is -- this is the -- the
- 15 situation that I'm facing so.
- 16 But I -- I'm willing to, you know, I do
- 17 the one time adjustment for fifteen percent and I
- 18 just hope that Noah would.
- 19 MR. TIERNEY: So I don't want to
- 20 interject, but I -- I didn't say I -- I was in
- 21 favor of fifteen. I think that, you know, the
- 22 fair market rent appeal is not a guarantee, you
- 23 know. My landlord, I have no idea how much they
- 24 rented it for before I moved in.
- 25 And I know that it was in a

- 1 significantly worse condition I got --
- 2 MS. PUENTES: Louder.
- 3 MR. TIERNEY: -- I got remodeled, so
- 4 that would be something that can change into the
- 5 cost. However, my rent still remains unaffordable
- 6 even though they had to do this remodel to make it
- 7 a habitable place. That's just my own example.
- 8 And even in this remodel, you know, half
- 9 the outlets don't work and there's leaks in the
- 10 ceiling. So I -- I think that that fair market
- 11 rent appeal is -- is not this savior that I think
- 12 it was. We all just nodded and said, yes, it is,
- 13 but -- but it's not.
- 14 And -- in addition of being arduous, you
- 15 know, that it takes time and like I said, there,
- 16 you know, there's a chance for, you know, for, you
- 17 know, it's not a guarantee, it's not an instant --
- 18 the landlord, I believe -- in my opinion, the
- 19 landlord and the tenant are in perfectly equal
- 20 footing in a fair market rent appeal.
- 21 That still does not resolve the fact
- 22 that the rent is currently unaffordable and that
- 23 this is a one time market adjustment, which
- 24 ultimately, I think is more stable for the market
- 25 then a consistent negative rental adjustment of --

- 1 of minor increments year after year. This is a
- 2 one-time thing. So I would prefer something
- 3 closer to twenty. Sorry, we flip flopped.
- 4 MS. INOUYE: Okay. So -- so we have --.
- 5 MS. SOTO: I am getting convinced by
- 6 Michael.
- 7 MS. INOUYE: Okay. All right. So do
- 8 you want to propose a different number for us to
- 9 discuss?
- 10 MR. TIERNEY: I -- I would prefer that
- 11 we measure twenty rather than eighteen sort of the
- 12 -- the temp check.
- MS. INOUYE: Twenty?
- 14 MR. TIERNEY: I -- I would prefer
- 15 twenty.
- 16 MS. SOTO: Would -- would anybody else
- 17 come up to twenty percent is the question.
- 18 MR. TIERNEY: I don't want to make a
- 19 motion.
- MS.: I would.
- MS. INOUYE: I would too as well.
- MS. PUENTES: No.
- MS. PERRY: No.
- MR. TAMPONE: No.
- MR. BROWN: No.

```
1
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     I'm also a no.
 2
 3
               MR. BROWN:
                           I just want to share a
 4
     thought as well, I understand that a lot of
 5
     tenants are suffering with a lot of personal
     experiences of not having --
 6
 7
               MS. PUENTES:
                             I can't --.
 8
               MR. BROWN: -- working outlets -- not
 9
     having working outlets or, you know, whatever the
10
     case may be. It doesn't matter what percentage we
11
     pick, that's not going to fix that problem.
12
     fact, it may even make it worse and that's my
13
     concern.
14
               On going too high on this percentage,
15
     safety is really important when it comes to that
16
     and just not the economy, but your personal safety
     is involved with that. If they're not doing it
17
18
     now, they're not going to do it when you're paying
19
     less.
20
               MR. TIERNEY:
                             So why raise my rent?
21
               MR. BROWN: Well, that's a good
22
     question. No, I understand that, but there's a
23
     lot of costs, you know, in your particular case
24
     and -- and only eight other particular cases that
```

we know of where people are complaining in certain

- 1 circumstances.
- 2 I -- I don't think it covers everybody
- 3 as a whole and I think personal experiences and
- 4 point a number of personal experiences, I don't
- 5 think --.
- 6 MR. TIERNEY: Sure, I just meant that
- 7 as, you know, while my -- my landlord does neglect
- 8 to provide basic repairs to my apartment which I
- 9 pay more than a third of my income on. I would --
- 10 I just meant that as an example that a fair market
- 11 rent appeal would give my landlord a far more say,
- 12 you know, whatever we set that, you know,
- 13 percentage above whatever it was X year ago.
- 14 You know, he, or I should say they,
- 15 because they're a faceless mega conglomerate from
- 16 New Jersey. They -- they are on a much better
- 17 footing to not give me money back because they
- 18 made these on paper improvements so -- so that's
- 19 the only point I meant by it was that the fair
- 20 market rent appeal is -- is not this guarantee
- 21 that we all seem to agree a few minutes ago that
- 22 it was. It's just simply not that.
- 23 So -- so I apologize for, you know,
- 24 inserting my own personal story for -- for that
- 25 example. I just thought it was the -- the easiest

- 1 in that moment so I -- I -- please feel free to
- 2 disregard that.
- MS. INOUYE: So -- okay. So we don't
- 4 have five votes for twenty. I think, you know, do
- 5 -- do the tenants, I mean, does anyone want to --
- 6 do you guys want to make more of a case for -- for
- 7 twenty, or do you want to propose another number?
- 8 Otherwise I think we should, you know, go to -- go
- 9 to -- go to -- back to fifteen and think about the
- 10 -- the look back period.
- 11 MR. TIERNEY: I'm not pleased with it
- 12 but, you know, I -- I, you know, that's
- 13 compromise. So I would be, you know -- hearing
- 14 that you guys are not on board for twenty, I would
- 15 be okay with fifteen.
- 16 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Junior, do have
- 17 some sense of what an appropriate fair market rent
- 18 appeal guideline might be that could get you on
- 19 board with a fifteen percent annual adjustment?
- 20 MR. TAMPONE: Well, I mean, I don't know
- 21 about fifteen percent, you know, if you're talking
- 22 about going forward, I -- I think that's just not
- 23 tenable. I would like to -- I would like to
- 24 propose a look back period up to discussion with a
- 25 compounding five percent adjustment based on

- 1 however much time we like -- annual adjustment
- 2 based on however much time we say that the look
- 3 back period goes back.
- 4 So let's say it's one year it's five
- 5 percent, if it's, you know, because now I -- we --
- 6 I'm just learning that this is not compounding, I
- 7 thought it was annual before and now it's a one
- 8 number thing so we've got to do some math on that.
- 9 But I feel like, you know, there's like
- 10 this talk of the -- this like big decrease number
- 11 and, you know, the devil is in the details of how
- 12 the math works out on the -- the different things
- 13 that we're doing. And I also really think that we
- 14 need to think significantly about utility included
- 15 and non-utility included properties.
- 16 And I don't -- I -- I haven't got
- 17 through my head on how that would look in a look
- 18 back but I feel like doing any type of negative
- 19 adjustment on a utility included property going
- 20 forward it would be detrimental to any property
- 21 owner.
- 22 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: So Junior, a four-
- 23 year look back at five percent annually would be a
- 24 four-year look back with a twenty-one percent cap
- 25 on reasonable adjustments. Did I get that about

- 1 right? Yes. Are you -- do you want to -- do you
- 2 want to like take the temperature of a four year
- 3 look back with twenty percent which would be about
- 4 five percent annual increases. Sorry, twenty-one
- 5 percent, four years --.
- 6 MR. TAMPONE: I think -- I -- I think
- 7 doing it from 2019 would be pretty palpable so
- 8 that would be three years but I would be -- I -- I
- 9 would be -- I would be agreeable to a three-year
- 10 look back with five percent per annual compounding
- 11 which is probably roughly sixteen-ish percent, I'm
- 12 going to guess, maybe seventeen.
- Which for a number of people if they got
- 14 a fair market rent appeal it would probably the,
- 15 you know, for the people with most egregious rent
- 16 increases it would be a very significant discount
- 17 based on what they're paying right now. For those
- 18 who are not then they're paying a fair rate as far
- 19 as I know.
- 20 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I would love to do
- 21 a temperature check on a three-year look back with
- 22 a sixteen percent -- what do we call it, give me
- 23 the word.
- 24 MR. TAMPONE: Guideline.
- 25 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Fair market rent

- 1 appeal guideline of -- with a look back of three
- 2 years and a maximum adjustment -- a maximum --
- 3 maximum increase in rent of sixteen percent over
- 4 those three years. Is that -- Carol, do -- do you
- 5 have feelings about that as a look back?
- 6 MS. SOTO: I will turn this on. I would
- 7 go for a three-year look back at eighteen percent.
- 8 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I said sixteen.
- 9 MS. SOTO: I said eighteen.
- 10 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Okay. All right.
- 11 That's --.
- MS.: That's higher.
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: That's higher --
- MS. SOTO: Yeah.
- 15 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: -- you know that
- 16 that is -- that is allowing --.
- 17 MS. SOTO: Oh, no, I'm --.
- 18 MR. TIERNEY: You -- you want to say
- 19 fourteen.
- MS. SOTO: I want to say fourteen.
- 21 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: All right.
- 22 Fourteen.
- 23 MR. TIERNEY: I think that I could be
- 24 amenable to that, I would prefer a longer year
- 25 with a --.

```
1
               MS. PUENTES:
                             Louder, please?
 2
               MR. TIERNEY:
                             I would prefer a longer
 3
     period over maybe a higher percentage, I think the
 4
     -- the turnover rate in the city of Kingston is,
 5
     you know, we're kind of excluding a lot of people
     if we set it to --.
 6
               MS. PUENTES:
                             I can't hear you, please.
 8
                             Sorry, I feel like I'm ...
               MR. TIERNEY:
 9
     this.
10
                             Tilt -- tilt it up a
               MR. TAMPONE:
11
     little.
12
               MS. PUENTES:
                             Speak up.
13
                             So I --.
               MR. TIERNEY:
14
               MR. TAMPONE:
                             There you go.
15
               MR. TIERNEY:
                             Yeah. I would prefer a
16
     longer term and maybe a more significant
17
     percentage so like five years and a twenty percent
     increase because I think the -- the turnover rate
18
19
     in the city of Kingston has been so much that
20
     we're really excluding a lot of people. Does that
21
     make sense?
22
               MR. TAMPONE:
                             I don't think that it
23
     would include anyone that turned over, right.
24
     -- if someone had vacated the property during the
```

look back period, they have no right to a fair

- 1 market rent appeal, right?
- 2 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Exactly.
- 3 MR. TAMPONE: Yeah.
- 4 MR. TIERNEY: Right, I apologize. Okay.
- 5 I -- I could be amenable to -- to Carol's
- 6 position.
- 7 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: That's three years
- 8 and fourteen percent.
- 9 MR. TIERNEY: Thank you.
- 10 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mike?
- 11 MS. SOTO: I really wanted four but.
- MR. BROWN: No.
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: No? I'm -- I'm on
- 14 board with a three-year fourteen percent.
- 15 MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: I would be for
- 16 three years.
- 17 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah, three years.
- MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: Three years or four
- 19 years? Okay. Yeah, as far as I know I would be
- 20 with that.
- 21 MS. INOUYE: Yeah, I would support that
- 22 that as well.
- 23 MS. PUENTES: What's on the -- what's on
- 24 the table, is that Carol's proposal or -- or
- 25 Michael's -- Junior's proposal?

- 1 MS. INOUYE: Oh, yeah, I was saying
- 2 Carol's proposal.
- 3 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: And -- and I think
- 4 I was also responding to Carol's proposal.
- 5 MS. PUENTES: But that's not --.
- 6 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Right, that's not,
- 7 so we're not -- we're not doing a formal motion.
- 8 So we're not like committing to anything, but --.
- 9 MS. PUENTES: Okay. So -- and -- and
- 10 Michael Brown just said no to -- to both of them.
- 11 MR. BROWN: Yeah.
- 12 MR. PUENTES: And you said yes to Carol?
- 13 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: And I would
- 14 probably say yes to -- to three years, sixteen
- 15 percent also.
- 16 MS. PUENTES: All right. I say yes -- I
- 17 say yes to Junior's.
- 18 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Okay.
- 19 MS. PERRY: I'd be open, but to a
- 20 shorter look back period.
- MS.: Can we hear, please?
- MS. PUENTES: They didn't hear you.
- 23 MS. PERRY: Shorter look back period is
- 24 what I said.
- 25 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I wish I could

- 1 count -- sorry, I shouldn't say that on the
- 2 record. I wish I could count.
- MS. SOTO: ... the accountant says.
- 4 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah, do it for a
- 5 living. So thinking about a three-year fourteen
- 6 percent look back and I think we've got Carol,
- 7 Michael, me, Dianna, Mie --.
- 8 MR. TAMPONE: All right. Did you offer
- 9 down for that? Yeah -- yeah.
- 10 MR. TIERNEY: I mean, I'm -- I'm -- I
- 11 mean, I'm -- I'm open to that but I -- I want a
- 12 fifteen percent rent reduction. Are these
- 13 separate items or are these --?
- 14 MS. INOUYE: Yeah, I -- I mean, I think
- 15 we shouldn't spend too much time here because
- 16 ultimately the -- the motion -- right, we need to
- 17 -- I think we need to make a motion that combines
- 18 both of these -- these parts of the decision.
- 19 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: So thinking about
- 20 this as like the -- the look back period that
- 21 we're getting towards agreement on, right. We're
- 22 thinking about three years and fourteen or sixteen
- 23 percent. Junior, does that change where you're at
- 24 a negative fifteen percent annual adjustment?
- 25 MR. TAMPONE: I don't think there's any

- 1 scenario where I can support a negative fifteen
- 2 percent annual adjustment.
- 3 MS. INOUYE: Okay.
- 4 MR. TIERNEY: I -- I -- I would support
- 5 the -- Junior's proposal for the -- for the look
- 6 back period with a fifteen percent reduction, I'm
- 7 willing to make that motion if that's where we
- 8 think that the majority is.
- 9 MS. PUENTES: Mike, please?
- 10 MR. TIERNEY: I'm sorry, Arlene. I'm
- 11 willing to -- to -- I could be willing to perhaps
- 12 make a motion if that is where the majority lies
- 13 for a fifteen percent negative rental adjustment
- 14 with a three-year look back period set at fifteen
- 15 percent --
- 16 MS. INOUYE: Sixteen.
- 17 MR. TIERNEY: -- sixteen percent. If
- 18 that's where, you know, that's kind of what my
- 19 temp check is, the combined proposal.
- 20 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Right. So thinking about a
- 21 three-year look back period with a sixteen percent
- 22 limit to increases in that past three years and a
- 23 negative fifteen percent annual adjustment and we will
- 24 refine the details about -- with, you know, heat and
- 25 hot water versus without heat and hot water in -- in

- 1 another conversation. Michael is on board with that.
- 2 Carol?
- 3 MR. TIERNEY: I don't -- I don't think
- 4 we can -- are -- are we --? CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
- 5 This isn't a --
- 6 MR. TIERNEY: Okay.
- 7 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: -- this isn't a
- 8 motion --
- 9 MR. TIERNEY: Okay, sorry.
- 10 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: -- this is just a
- 11 -- like, articulating your temperature check.
- 12 Carol, is that --?
- 13 MS. SOTO: I'm solidly with Michael
- 14 here.
- 15 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Junior?
- 16 MR. TAMPONE: I'm down with a three-year
- 17 look back with the sixteen percent, right. I
- 18 think I'm pretty sure those are the right numbers.
- MS. PUENTES: Yes, three years sixteen
- 20 percent, that's yours.
- 21 MR. TAMPONE: Yeah -- yeah, okay. You
- 22 know, fine adjustments. Going forward, I feel
- 23 that I would be amenable to a relatively flat
- 24 adjustment for units that did not include
- 25 utilities and a modest roughly whatever we believe

- 1 utilities increases might costs increase in order
- 2 to maintain stabilization of rents while the fair
- 3 market rents shake out, which, you know, is
- 4 probably going to take at least a year.
- 5 MS. PERRY: I feel like there may be two
- 6 different things going on here --.
- 7 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah, Junior is
- 8 this particular --.
- 9 MR. TAMPONE: Yeah -- yeah -- yeah.
- 10 MS. PERRY: Well, one is your -- for the
- 11 -- over the three years, the rent should --.
- 12 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Tara, you got to
- 13 speak further into the mic.
- MS. PERRY: Sorry, over the three years
- 15 the rent should have only been increased five
- 16 percent each year, right. Now, you seem to say
- 17 reduction, which leads me to believe you think the
- 18 rent should be reduced by fourteen percent or over
- 19 those two years.
- 20 MR. TIERNEY: So -- so we're -- we're --
- 21 so we are -- there are two separate conversations
- 22 that we need to -- that -- that I was hoping that
- 23 we can merge into one. So we have the look back
- 24 period where if your rent changed over X
- 25 percentage, that's item one.

```
1
               And item two is the actual rental
 2
     adjustment for one and two year leases.
 3
     agree with Junior's proposal of the -- the look
 4
     back period of three years with a cumulative total
 5
     change of -- of plus fifteen percent --
               MS. INOUYE:
 6
                            Sixteen.
               MR. TIERNEY:
                             -- sixteen percent.
 8
     in, you know, for the rental adjustment for one
 9
     and two year leases, I want, you know, I think
10
     that -- and I think that's the majority of the
11
     board would support a negative fifteen percent
12
     rental adjustment for one and two year leases.
13
               MS. INOUYE: So what we're doing a straw
14
     poll on is the proposal of fifteen percent
     reduction combined with a three-year lookback
15
16
     period at sixteen percent total. So that is what
17
     we're discussing so we know that Junior is not on
     board and Carol is not on board.
18
                                       Arlene is, I am.
19
               MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ:
                                    I am.
20
               MS. SOTO: Diana is.
21
               MS. PUENTES:
                             Carry on.
22
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     Mike?
23
               MR. BROWN:
                           No.
24
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                      I -- I'm not --
25
     I'm not there yet. I -- could we -- I -- I've
```

```
seen D.H.C.R. making faces --.
 1
 2
               MS. PUENTES:
                             I can't hear you.
 3
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I've seen D.H.C.R.
 4
     making faces, I think --.
 5
               MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: As a point -- as --
     as a point of information --.
 6
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                      Yes, please.
 8
               MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: Everything -- about
 9
     an hour ago you read what your board needs to look
10
     at to set the one and two year guideline?
11
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     Yes.
12
               MS. GRAY-HUERTAS:
                                  It's -- what this
13
     board needs to do is look at those enumerated
14
     issues to set a one year and a two year guideline.
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
15
                                     Yes.
16
               MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: You need to do that
17
     and you need to set a fair market rent appeal.
     For it to be defensible, you need to be able to
18
19
     justify the one and two year based on those pieces
20
     and the fair market rent appeal is -- I would
21
     suggest would be a separate motion vote --
22
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     Great.
23
               MS. GRAY-HUERTAS:
                                  -- across the board.
24
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                      Thank you.
```

Thank you.

MS.:

```
MS. INOUYE: Yeah, can I make a motion?
 1
 2
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yes, please.
 3
               MS. INOUYE: Okay. So I'd like to move
 4
     that we decide on a fifteen percent reduction as
 5
     our adjustment --
 6
               MR. TIERNEY: For one?
               MS. INOUYE: -- and in the motion -- for
 8
     -- for -- for one and two year leases. And in the
 9
     motion do I have to say the reasons or like we've
10
     been discussing the reasons. Do I have to say
11
     them in the motion?
12
                                     No, I think --
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
13
               MS. SOTO:
                         No.
14
               MS. INOUYE:
                            No.
15
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: -- we -- we've
     said the reasons. You don't need to say the
16
17
     reason.
18
               MS. INOUYE: Okay. So -- wait, April
19
     saying --.
```

- MS. PUENTES: Second, I second.
- MS. INOUYE: Okay.
- 22 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Arlene seconds.
- 23 Do we want further discussion or do we want to
- 24 call a motion? All right. Hearing no discussion,
- 25 I'm going to call the motion. Junior?

1	MR. TAMPONE: No.
2	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Tara?
3	MS. PERRY: No.
4	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Arlene?
5	MS. PUENTES: Yes.
6	MS. INOUYE: Yes.
7	MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: Yes.
8	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yes.
9	MR. BROWN: No.
10	MR. TIERNEY: Yes.
11	MS. SOTO: Yes.
12	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: The motion passes
13	or the motion carries with six votes. Turning to
14	the other order of business is setting fair market
15	rent appeal guidelines.
16	I I had heard from us that we think
17	that the the city's good cause eviction law
18	sets us a five percent requires that rent
19	increases beyond five percent in a year, need to
20	be justified. That feels like that's been our
21	anchor for what we think is a reasonable annual
22	percentage change looking backwards.
23	I I think I would feel I would
24	I would feel comfortable thinking about a two year
25	look back at ten percent is a is a place where
1	

- 1 I would start our conversation.
- 2 MS. PUENTES: Excuse me, what -- we had
- 3 three years sixteen?
- 4 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: We -- we were --
- 5 we were.
- 6 MR. TIERNEY: I'm sorry.
- 7 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: You can return
- 8 that.
- 9 MR. TIERNEY: I'm sorry, Chairman, can
- 10 you repeat your motion?
- 11 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I would -- I would
- 12 -- I would love to know if -- if we could -- so
- 13 Arlene has correctly pointed out that we were
- 14 having a conversation where it seems like there
- 15 was most of us on board with a three-year sixteen
- 16 percent fair market rent appeal guideline. I
- 17 think your implicit suggestion was we should have
- 18 just voted on that.
- 19 MS. PUENTES: Yes, I make a motion that
- 20 we look at the fair market rent guideline at three
- 21 years and sixteen percent increase.
- 22 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Do I have a
- 23 second?
- MS. INOUYE: Second.
- 25 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Do we have

- 1 discussion or do we just want to vote? Junior?
- 2 MR. TAMPONE: I feel that the discussion
- 3 the basis of this motion right now fundamentally
- 4 makes previous motion arbitrary and -- yeah,
- 5 that's my piece.
- 6 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I feel very
- 7 strongly that arbitrary is -- I -- the last
- 8 motion that we made was rooted in our analysis of
- 9 the -- the rental market. It was rooted in the
- 10 data that we've seen about the rental market here
- 11 in Kingston. It was rooted in data provided for
- 12 us by D.H.C.R.
- 13 It was rooted in data provided for us
- 14 through via Ulster County, it was rooted in an
- 15 analysis of the -- the way that renters are cost
- 16 burdened by their rent. And -- and it was rooted
- 17 in an analysis of the -- the -- the separation
- 18 between rental increases and -- and core
- 19 inflation.
- I think that to say that our
- 21 conversation made -- to just say that the decision
- 22 that we made was arbitrary is I -- I feel like it
- 23 involves you not having listened to the last hour,
- 24 I really -- I'm -- I'm serious, that is -- I -- I
- 25 take serious offense at that and I think that --

- 1 that shows disrespect to the work that we as a
- 2 board have done and the work that we as a board
- 3 are doing.
- 4 And the seriousness with which each of
- 5 us here is taking our responsibility to consider
- 6 the data available to us and to exercise
- 7 reasonable judgment based in the data that it --
- 8 that we are required by law to look at it.
- 9 We've looked at the data that the law
- 10 requires us to look at and we exercise judgment.
- 11 And I -- honestly, I'm -- I'm disappointed to hear
- 12 that from you, Junior and -- and -- I'm sorry to
- 13 not -- to not bite my tongue but --.
- 14 MR. TIERNEY: Chair -- chairman. Thank
- 15 you. I -- I think that the five percent that --
- 16 that we -- or the five percent per year or five
- 17 point five -- are we in sixteen? I -- I think
- 18 that is -- is perfectly -- I think we came to that
- 19 number based off of a reasonable conclusion.
- I think, you know, as much as I would
- 21 like it to be a longer look back period, I think
- 22 that using the 2019 Emergency Tenant Protection
- 23 Act as our -- that -- that we became eligible to
- 24 opt in is a very reasonable starting point.
- 25 So -- so I -- I do think 2019 is -- is a

- 1 very, you know, suitable time period, with five
- 2 percent as -- as the good cause eviction in the
- 3 city as well as to, you know, as we heard through
- 4 the human data of -- of public testimony, a lot of
- 5 this did start in 2019 when Kingston had the --
- 6 the failed vacancy study.
- 7 So -- so I do think we arrived here
- 8 through, you know, a perfectly reasonable
- 9 consensus. So I will -- I will disagree with you
- 10 on your own original proposal but --.
- MS. PUENTES: Excuse me, I don't
- 12 understand your discussion because the discussion
- on the table right now is three years sixteen
- 14 percent. I'm sorry, I don't understand you
- 15 bringing up five percent.
- 16 MR. TIERNEY: So -- so per year -- so
- 17 five percent per year is fifteen, we've made it
- 18 sixteen so that -- that's -- I apologize for --
- 19 for any confusion.
- 20 MS. PUENTES: It's -- it's late. Let's
- 21 keep our number straight.
- MR. TIERNEY: Yeah. So -- so the
- 23 sixteen percent is from -- from the -- the 2019
- 24 Emergency Tenant Protection Act, I -- I do find --
- 25 I do find reasonable and it is something I -- I

- 1 would vote for.
- 2 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: We have -- sorry
- 3 for my being out of order. We have a proposal, or
- 4 we have a motion on the table that has been
- 5 seconded. Is there other discussion of the
- 6 motion?
- 7 MS. PERRY: I just want a clarification,
- 8 right now we're agreeing to -- discussing a five
- 9 percent increase in a three year look back. So
- 10 we're okay with increasing rent five percent for
- 11 the last three years, but now we just decreased
- 12 the next two years after that. Is -- am I
- 13 understanding --
- 14 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yes.
- 15 MS. PERRY: -- that right? Okay.
- 16 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yes, we -- I mean,
- 17 it is -- it is a three year look back -- saying
- 18 that rents or capping the reasonable increase of
- 19 rents at sixteen percent over those three years,
- 20 which is roughly a five percent -- roughly
- 21 equivalent to a five percent per year.
- MS. PERRY: And then you're undoing that
- 23 by doing a rent decrease for the next two --
- 24 possibly two year leases somewhat.
- 25 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: We -- we have

- 1 already passed that, yes.
- 2 MS. PERRY: Okay.
- 3 MS. PUENTES: What was your answer?
- 4 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: We -- we have
- 5 already passed the motion to do one and two-year
- 6 lease adjustments.
- 7 MS. PUENTES: Uh-huh.
- 8 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: And the annual
- 9 adjustments of negative fifteen percent. Do we
- 10 have other discussion of the motion --?
- 11 MR. TIERNEY: Point of order, clarifying
- 12 question for our H.C.R. attorneys, is this August
- 13 1st, 2019, or January 1st, 2019, if we set a three
- 14 year period?
- MS. APRIL: I don't know what period you
- 16 guys are looking at so that's up to the board. At
- 17 one point you said when E.T.P.A. came into
- 18 existence, which was in June 2019.
- 19 MR. TIERNEY: Okay. I would prefer
- 20 January 2019 to start the date --.
- 21 MS. PUENTES: I'd like to amend my --
- 22 what I do, amend the motion to January 1st, 2019,
- 23 look back period.
- MR. TIERNEY: Second.
- 25 MS. PUENTES: At sixteen percent.

- 1 MR. TIERNEY: So -- so now we're voting
- 2 on the amendment.
- 3 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Great. Now, we
- 4 are vote -- we're voting on the amendment, which
- 5 is not voting on -- how much is the --?
- 6 MR. TIERNEY: Voting on the proposal.
- 7 MS. PUENTES: We're just -- we got to
- 8 vote on the amendment.
- 9 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: We're voting on
- 10 the amended motion.
- MS. PUENTES: Yeah.
- MR. TIERNEY: Well, she made the
- 13 original motion.
- 14 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Right. So I think
- 15 you made -- you made -- you made an amendment to
- 16 your original motion, so the motion that we're
- 17 voting on is your amended motion --.
- 18 MS. PUENTES: Okay. So the amended
- 19 motion is January 1st, 2019, look back period with
- 20 sixteen percent.
- 21 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Do we have another
- 22 discussion? It's been moved, it's been seconded
- 23 by Michael in its revised form. I'll -- I'll call
- 24 the question. Carol?
- MS. SOTO: I vote yes.

1	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Michael?		
2	MR. TIERNEY: Yes.		
3	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mike?		
4	MR. BROWN: No.		
5	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yes.		
6	MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: Yes.		
7	MS. INOUYE: Yes.		
8	MS. PUENTES: Yes.		
9	MS. PERRY: No.		
10	MR. TAMPONE: No.		
11	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: The motion		
12	carries. That is our		
13	MS. PUENTES: I have them.		
14	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah.		
15	MS. PUENTES: You're going to you're		
16	going to close no.		
17	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I I was going		
18	to ask if we have any other business?		
19	MS. PUENTES: Yes, we do.		
20	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: business?		
21	MS. PUENTES: I'd like to form a		
22	committee to look at guidelines for for help		
23	me.		
24	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: For public		
25	hearings.		
1			

- 1 MS. PUENTES: Yes, for public hearings.
- 2 And we will present -- the committee will present
- 3 its report and recommendations to you in the next
- 4 spring meeting.
- 5 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I would like to
- 6 ask our colleagues at D.H.C.R. if rent guidelines
- 7 boards have in the past, or if we're forbidden
- 8 from or if we're allowed to form subcommittees to
- 9 undertake specific items of business --.
- MS. APRIL: In my decades of history,
- 11 no, what you guys did here tonight is what most
- 12 boards do, tenants and owners present them to
- 13 pieces each time and then people vote along the
- 14 way. I mean, you guys could do whatever you want
- 15 --.
- MS. PUENTES: ... we'll just talk about
- 17 and ... what's acceptable and what isn't
- 18 acceptable and then we'll -- we'll just report to
- 19 you. And we're not making -- we're not making any
- 20 changes, we're just making -- we're just doing
- 21 some -- some investigation and some study and then
- 22 we'll bring up -- bring this to you in the spring.
- 23 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Would it be
- 24 acceptable and allowable under public meetings
- 25 rules for us ...

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1 MR. TIERNEY: I -- I don't think,
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- 2 you know, we would probably --.
- 3 MS. PUENTES: I can't hear you.
- 4 MR. TIERNEY: We would probably have to,
- 5 you know, notice those meetings and reserve City
- 6 Hall and stuff like that. And -- and is this --
- 7 is this a committee made up of the nine of us or
- 8 are we just --?
- 9 MS. PUENTES: No just -- well, just one
- 10 or two or three of us.
- 11 MR. TIERNEY: Okay.
- MS. PUNETES: And we were -- we're not
- 13 making any changes. We are studying the matter
- 14 and we're going to bring a report to the -- to the
- 15 board on the next spring meeting.
- 16 MS. INOUYE: Can I ask a question, what
- 17 -- what is the reason for this committee, like
- 18 what would be the --?
- 19 MS. PUENTES: Well, I -- I -- I thought
- 20 that the -- I was traumatized by the last five
- 21 hour meeting, and it was more than I was able to
- 22 absorb. And I don't know what the answer is.
- 23 Perhaps we have more meetings that should have
- 24 been shorter -- shorter time periods.
- 25 And also people speaking twice and not

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- 1 adding to the conversation. We -- and I just
- 2 wanted to look into that to see if things could be
- 3 made a little more tolerable for me.
- 4 MS. INOUYE: I -- can -- is that
- 5 something, I mean, I -- that we can discuss as a
- 6 board at a full board meeting?
- 7 MS. PUENTES: We could -- we could
- 8 discuss it as a full board meeting, but we -- but
- 9 a person that's on the committee would be looking
- 10 to see what is allowable under the Sunshine laws
- 11 and what isn't allowable, and we could bring
- 12 suggestions.
- 13 And we could do -- we could do the
- 14 research to see what is permitted, what isn't and
- 15 then the whole board wouldn't have to do it.
- 16 MS. INOUYE: I -- I think that we're
- 17 allowed to do research though as individuals or,
- 18 you know, and we're allowed to talk to each other.
- 19 But we can't be in a group with more than half of
- 20 us right, outside of these meetings.
- 21 So I don't know if we -- I think it's a
- 22 good idea, but I don't know if we need to have a
- 23 committee in order to do that. Like, I feel like,
- 24 you know, some of us can just do some research and
- 25 we can talk about plans for the next time.

- 1 And then we could have a whole group
- 2 meeting, you know, next spring where we discuss
- 3 what we want to do, how we want to organize the
- 4 public hearings.
- 5 MS. PUENTES: Okay. So I'll put the
- 6 motion on the table and see if it floats. I move
- 7 that we make a small committee to bring a report
- 8 to the board for the spring meeting.
- 9 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Is there a second?
- 10 MS. INOUYE: Second.
- 11 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I'll --.
- 12 MR. TIERNEY: I actually just want to
- 13 discuss, so I do think that the impetus of your
- 14 question is important, but we as the board are
- 15 however to, you know, at the start of the public
- 16 hearing and as long as it's noticed, say that
- 17 there's an end time of, you know, starts at six
- 18 ends at ten.
- 19 You know, just as an example, you know,
- 20 we don't -- I don't think we need, that's just
- 21 policy versus --.
- MS. PUENTES: Well, again, I could bring
- 23 this -- I could bring this policy and references
- 24 to the board and then -- and -- and so that we
- 25 could be working out of -- out of -- out of data

- 1 and -- and actual knowledge rather than what we --
- 2 what you just said without reference right now.
- 3 So I would -- I would have to -- right
- 4 now I'm just taking your word for it and I'm sure
- 5 it's correct --
- 6 MR. TIERNEY: But --
- 7 MS. PUENTES: -- but I would like to --
- 8 MR. TIERNEY: -- that is -- that's what
- 9 we --.
- 10 MS. PUENTES: -- just bring it to the
- 11 board. What?
- 12 MR. TIERNEY: That's why we have the
- 13 attorneys sitting behind us for is to tell us what
- 14 is and isn't allowed.
- MS. PUENTES: I was just trying to save
- 16 money, I'm not -- we're just trying to save time
- 17 for the board, that's all.
- 18 MR. TIERNEY: I totally understand, and
- 19 but I think we can just do it without making more
- 20 work for you.
- 21 MR. TAMPONE: I agree with Mike.
- MS. PUENTES: Sorry, what are you
- 23 saying?
- MR. TAMPONE: I agree with Michael. We
- 25 want to start our committee fine, but I think an

- 1 email or two to D.H.C.R. people to clarify any
- 2 thought we have and would probably be sufficient.
- 3 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I -- I wasn't
- 4 inclined to -- to find any formal solution and I
- 5 would love to talk with you --.
- 6 MS. PUENTES: I can't hear you, I'm
- 7 sorry.
- 8 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Sorry. I'm -- I'm
- 9 also inclined to find an informal solution and I
- 10 would love to work with you into identifying what
- 11 suggestions you and I should bring to the board in
- 12 our spring meeting. Do we have a motion on the
- 13 table, do we have other discussion, or do we want
- 14 to call the question?
- MS. SOTO: No.
- 16 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I'm going to call
- 17 a question. Carol?
- 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: ... second chair?
- 19 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Yeah, it is
- 20 seconded. Carol?
- 21 MS. SOTO: Yes, if you want to form a
- 22 committee, yes. But, you know, I'm in favor of
- 23 emails.
- MR. TIERNEY: No.
- MR. BROWN: No.

1 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I vote no to the 2 forming of a committee. 3 MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: No. 4 MS. INOUYE: No. 5 MS. PUENTES: Yes. 6 MS. PERRY: Yes. MR. TAMPONE: No. 8 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: The motion fails 9 and Arlene, you and I have our work cut out for 10 Any other business, otherwise, I will take a -- entertain a motion to adjourn. 11 Have we completed a 12 MR. TIERNEY: 13 hundred percent of our statutory requirements? 14 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: That's an excellent question. Have we completed our 15 16 statutory requirements? 17 MR. STECKER: As set forth in the public notice, there is a requirement for a certification 18 19 meeting that can be set now or at a later date. 20 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I would just as soon set that now. At what timeframe should we 21 22 plan that certification meeting? 23 MR. TIERNEY: Is Monday too close while 24 we already scheduled?

MR. STECKER: Well, something is going

25

- 1 to need to be written up. It's typically written
- 2 by D.H.C.R. staff, it's an explanatory statement
- 3 and that can't be turned around over the holiday
- 4 weekend certainly. So you know, the certification
- 5 meeting is typically held in September after June
- 6 meetings.
- 7 So that gives you an indication of what
- 8 kind of timeframe those are usually turned around
- 9 in. You know, you have passed the guidelines that
- 10 you set forth to pass and so the certification is
- 11 kind of a ceremonial thing.
- 12 It doesn't have to be done as soon as
- 13 possible, so I would set it out significantly
- 14 further than this upcoming Monday.
- 15 MR. TIERNEY: I forgot it was Friday.
- 16 MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: Sometime next week
- 17 after Monday?
- 18 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: January?
- 19 MR. STECKER: I mean, you can even look
- 20 at January, yes.
- 21 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I'm hearing
- 22 January, how about the week of January 9th?
- 23 MS. SOTO: Is this something that can be
- 24 attended by Zoom. I intend to be out --
- MR. STECKER: No.

- 1 MS. SOTO: -- of the country in January.
- 2 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Do we need
- 3 everyone present or just a quorum?
- 4 MR. STECKER: You are going to be voting
- 5 to certify the explanatory statement to certify
- 6 the vote -- the votes made here tonight. So a
- 7 quorum will need to the present in order to have the
- 8 necessary votes in order to pass both of these.
- 9 So some people can be absent, but it can't be so many
- 10 that you won't have the votes necessary to do what you
- 11 need to do at the certification.
- 12 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Does January
- 13 sounds good?
- 14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When do you
- 15 leave?
- 16 MS. INOUYE: Do we have the votes
- 17 necessary?
- 18 MS. SOTO: 25th of November.
- 19 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: When -- when are
- 20 you returning, Carol?
- 21 MS. SOTO: I'm -- I'm not sure when I'm
- 22 returning. I'm returning to attend any board
- 23 meetings in May.
- 24 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Is May too far
- 25 away? Yes.

- 1 MS. SOTO: I'm leaving at the end of the
- 2 month.
- 3 MS.: This month?
- 4 MS. SOTO: The end of this month.
- 5 MR. TIERNEY: So -- so if this is mostly
- 6 ceremonial why -- why does it take so long? Why -
- 7 why do we need this three month period? Why
- 8 can't it be in the second week of December, you
- 9 know. Does it take -- does it take that
- 10 significant time period for you -- I mean, I don't
- 11 want to force you guys to rush or anything.
- 12 MR. STECKER: Explanatory statement has
- 13 not begun to be drafted because you guys needed to
- 14 make your determinations tonight for the board to
- 15 draft it up. I honestly don't know how long it's
- 16 going to take.
- 17 So January seems like an appropriate
- 18 time to put this. If you're missing one board
- 19 member you can still hold a meeting, but it's
- 20 really up to this board to find an appropriate
- 21 date. And again, you can table the finding of the
- 22 date till, you know, a later time. I don't -- I
- 23 don't know it may be worthwhile to see what the
- 24 availability is of the rest of the board.
- 25 MS. INOUYE: So we just need -- we're

- 1 certifying our decision?
- 2 MS.: Yes.
- 3 MS. INOUYE: Okay.
- 4 MR. STECKER: Yes.
- 5 MS. INOUYE: So we need at least five of us to do that
- 6 without Carol we'll have still at least five of us and
- 7 as long as everyone else is there and people continue
- 8 to believe and stand by their votes tonight.
- 9 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Great. Do you
- 10 want to pick a date in December that works --
- 11 sorry, January? Thank you. The week of the 9th,
- 12 the week of the 23rd?
- 13 MR. TIERNEY: I don't even know if the
- 14 City Hall has their calendar through January
- 15 ready.
- 16 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: I will entertain a
- 17 motion to table this decision about picking a date
- 18 for our certification meeting.
- 19 MR. TIERNEY: But then we have to come
- 20 here on Monday.
- 21 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Do we have to come
- 22 here -- would -- do we have to come to a meeting
- 23 to pick a date so we will --
- MR. STECKER: No.
- 25 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: -- no, okay.

- 1 MR. STECKER: It can be chosen --.
- MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: It can be chosen by
- 3 the group. We will put out a public notice as to
- 4 whatever date you guys set --
- 5 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Great.
- 6 MS. GRAY-HUERTAS: -- we will still send
- 7 the public notice.
- 8 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: But we don't need
- 9 -- but we don't need to like have a public meeting
- 10 to pick the date.
- 11 MR. STECKER: No.
- 12 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Great. Okay.
- 13 MS. PUENTES: I have a question. The
- 14 date we're done with that, right? We're not going
- 15 to do that right now?
- 16 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: We have not yet
- 17 passed a motion to table picking a date.
- 18 MS. PUENTES: Okay. I second your
- 19 motion to table date.
- 20 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Great. Carol?
- MS. SOTO: Yes.
- 22 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Michael?
- MR. TIERNEY: Aye.
- 24 CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mike?
- MR. BROWN: Yes.

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1
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                      Yes.
 2
               MS. INOUYE: Yes.
 3
               MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ:
                                    Yes.
 4
               MS. PUENTES:
                             Yes.
 5
               MS. PERRY: Yes.
 6
               MR. TAMPONE:
                             Yes.
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                      It passes, we'll
 8
     table picking a date.
 9
               MS. PUENTES:
                             I have a question.
                                                  We --
10
     we talked about apartments with utility with gas
11
     and electric and apartments without gas and
12
     electric. Is that something we have to think
13
     about?
14
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN:
                                     We did not set
15
     different annual adjustments this year for
     different classes of apartment. And at next
16
17
     year's -- at next year's meetings we will set an
18
     adjustment and we can set an adjustment that is
19
     different for units with and without. I would
     love to entertain a motion to adjourn.
20
21
               MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ:
                                    Second.
22
               CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Do you want to
23
     make a motion?
24
               MS. LOPEZ-MARTINEZ: I'll make the
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25

motion to adjourn.

1	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Diana makes a			
2	motion to adjourn.			
3	MS. INOUYE: Second.			
4	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Mie seconds.			
5	MS.: Aye.			
6	MS.: Aye.			
7	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: All all in			
8	favor?			
9	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.			
10	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: Aye.			
11	MS.: Aye.			
12	MS.: Aye.			
13	CHAIR KIPPLEY-OGMAN: All opposed?			
14	We're adjourned, it's nine fifty-two. Thank you			
15	so much.			
16	(The hearing concluded at 9:53 p.m.)			
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				

1	STATE OF NEW YORK		
2			
3	I, DANIELLE CHRISTIAN, do hereby certify that the foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at the		
4	time and place, as stated in the caption hereto,		
5	at Page 1 hereof; that the foregoing typewritten		
6	transcription consisting of pages 1 through 163,		
7	is a true record of all proceedings had at the hearing.		
8	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto		
9	subscribed my name, this the 21st day of November,		
10	2022.		
11			
12	Danielle Christian		
13	DANIELLE CHRISTIAN, Reporter		
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