



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO NEIGHBORHOOD & HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Renters' Solutions Subcommittee (RSS): Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: August 15, 2022

What is the Renters' Solutions Subcommittee (RSS)?

- The RSS is an advisory body of the Housing Commission. The charge of the subcommittee is to advise the Housing Commission on renter-related issues, especially those that pertain to the Strategic Housing Implementation Plan (SHIP).

Who can attend RSS meetings?

- The subcommittee's meetings will be open to the public starting in August 2022. The subcommittee may also convene a closed session if it is needed.
- Updates on meeting times and locations will be available on [SA Speak Up](#).
- Meetings will be held in accessible locations with translation and interpretation available on request.
- If you require interpretation services, staff ask that your request be made 48 hours prior to the meeting so we can work to procure translation services. Please call 210-207-7950 to make translation request.

Does the RSS have judicial power to hold landlords, developers, city officials, or anyone else directly accountable for renter-related issues?

- The RSS is a policy advisory body, focused on renter-related matters. They are not a judicial body, and do not have enforcement jurisdiction.
- Staff expects that we will hear from people experiencing a variety of active issues during the meetings. Staff will be ready to refer people to resources like the city's [Right to Counsel Program](#) and [Housing Assistance Programs](#) as the need arises.

To what extent will individuals / organizations be able to bring forward policies that aim to systemically change renter policy?

- Individuals and organizations can recommend policies and policy options that would further the charge of the subcommittee and the work assigned in the SHIP.
- The subcommittee will note recommendations and may be able to address them as part of their work, which is focused on advising the commission on SHIP implementation.



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Are the RSS meetings open to public comment? Will the Housing Commissioners be able to speak directly to community members during the renter subcommittee meetings?

- Individuals are welcome to attend meetings and will have an opportunity to speak on items that are on the agenda for the meeting. Written and call-in comments are also welcome for those unable to attend the meeting.
- The public can provide public comment at the meetings and can sign up to speak at the subcommittee meeting. Written comment can be submitted using SA Speak Up or sent to HousingPolicy@sanantonio.gov. Phone comment can be made by calling: 210-207-7890.
- The exact format of how the public engages may change depending on the topics being discussed at a particular meeting and will be at the discretion of the co-chairs. The co-chairs of the subcommittee are the Housing Commission's representatives on the subcommittee.

How are the RSS meetings advertised? When can the public expect agendas to be posted for the subcommittee meetings?

- Meetings are announced via [SA Speak Up](#), the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department newsletter, and at Housing Commission meetings. We welcome suggestions of how we can get the word out to additional groups.
- The goal is to post agendas on SA Speak Up for the subcommittee one week before each meeting and no less than 72 hours before the meeting so the public knows which topics will be discussed at the meetings.

What types of renter-related topics will this subcommittee cover?

- The purpose of the subcommittee is advising the Housing Commission on renter-related issues including, but not limited to emergency rental assistance; tenants' rights and legal aid; education outreach, and training; and legislative items.
- The focus of the subcommittee will be on providing feedback and advice on SHIP strategies that will impact renters. The subcommittee may hear individual issues and use those concerns to inform recommendations. However, they do not have the authority to address individual concerns directly.

If this is an advisory subcommittee, how can we ensure that the Housing Commission will listen to the concerns presented forward?

- Recommendations from the subcommittee will be presented timely to Housing Commission. Generally, at the Housing Commission meeting following the subcommittee meeting.

