

#3

DRAINAGE FEES AND RENTERS

Stuart Harry Hersh [REDACTED] 512-587-5093

I continue to be concerned that the draft drainage fee ordinance may have language that treats the renter majority unfairly:

1. The drainage fee will no longer be on a renter's utility bill, so technically renters will no longer pay drainage utility fees.
2. Renters generally experience \$50 or \$100 increases in monthly rent when our owner's expenses increase as a result of increase property taxes (not just the City); utility bills; insurance; and repairs unless our owner decides to absorb the increase that year.
3. It will not feel like greater affordability if my drainage fee goes to zero, but my rent increases by \$50 or \$100 if the Council does not adopt some creative suggestions that have been offered.
4. Those of us who have provide on-site detention; rain-water harvesting; and/or made a fee-in-lieu payment are still being created as if our level of impervious cover is the same as those properties that have done no mitigation at all. I don't understand the science on that.
5. Faith based organizations that house the homeless will be fee exempt, but owners that accept housing choice vouchers, veteran's vouchers, and other vouchers to either prevent homelessness or serve the chronically homeless will not receive a reduction in drainage fees.
6. The drainage fee changes so far has not been linked to strategies to reduce expenses through vacancy savings and other areas as part of the General Fund budget discussions.

Please find a fairer way to pass on drainage fees to our owners to increase the likelihood that a court decision to reverse the current unfair drainage fees will result in even greater costs for those who do not homes in which we live.