

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RENTAL HOUSING COMMISSION
CERTIFICATION AND NOTICE OF RENT ADJUSTMENT OF
GENERAL APPLICABILITY

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2017

1. Pursuant to section 206(b) of the Rental Housing Act of 1985, effective July 18, 1985 (D.C. Law 6-10; D.C. Official Code § 42-3502.06(b) (2012 Repl.)) (“Act”), the Rental Housing Commission (“Commission”) shall determine an adjustment of general applicability in the rent that may be charged in accordance with section 206(a) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 42-3502.06(a)) for rental units covered by the Rent Stabilization Program,¹ which shall be equal to the change during the previous calendar year in the Washington, D.C. Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (“SMSA”) Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (“CPI-W”) for All Items.²
2. Pursuant to section 206(b) of the Act, the Commission determined that the CPI-W for All Items in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area increased by 1.1% during the previous calendar year.
3. Pursuant to the requirements of section 202(a)(3) of the Act of 1985 (D.C. Official Code § 42-3502.02(a)(3)), the Commission hereby certifies and gives notice that **the rent**

¹ The coverage of the Rent Stabilization Program is established by section 205(a)-(e) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 42-3502.05(a)-(e)).

² The Rental Housing Commission and the Rent Administrator are mandated by Act to annually calculate and publish in the *District of Columbia Register* the percentage change in the “Washington, D.C., Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for all items.” D.C. Official Code §§ 42-3502.04(k), 42-3502.06(b). However, the Act does not conform to two changes in the publication by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (“BLS”), which publishes the CPI-W statistics and determines what areas will be in the SMSA.

First, the BLS enlarged the geographical areas included with Washington, D.C. in the statistical area. Second, the name of the BLS statistical publication was changed to reflect the enlargement of the area. Originally, the SMSA included Washington, D.C. and parts of Maryland, and Virginia. The statistical publication issued by BLS, and used by both the Rent Administrator and the Commission, was named “Consumer Price Index, Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers – (CPI-W), Washington, DC-MD-VA, All Items.” That publication was discontinued, and now the BLS publication is the “Consumer Price Index – Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va., All Items.” The difference is the inclusion of parts of the state of West Virginia and the city of Baltimore, Maryland into a “consolidated metropolitan statistical area” with Washington, D.C.

The BLS data on which the Commission relies is published with the Series ID CWURA311SA0.

adjustment of general applicability to become effective on May 1, 2017, shall not exceed 1.1% of the legal rent charged for a covered rental unit on April 30, 2017.³

4. Pursuant to section 202(a)(3)(B) of the Act, as amended by the Elderly Tenant and Tenant with a Disability Protection Emergency Amendment Act of 2017, effective February 9, 2017 (D.C. Bill 22-17) (“Tenant Protection Emergency Act”),⁴ the Commission shall additionally determine the current, annual cost-of-living adjustment (“COLA”) to the benefits of Social Security recipients as established pursuant to section 215(i) of the Social Security Act, approved August 28, 1950 (64 Stat. 506; 42 U.S.C. § 415(i)).
5. Pursuant to section 202(a)(3)(B) of the Act, as amended by the Tenant Protection Emergency Act, the Commission determined that the Social Security COLA established for calendar year 2017 is 0.3%.
6. Pursuant to section 202(a)(3)(C) of the Act, as amended by the Tenant Protection Emergency Act, the Commission shall additionally determine the maximum annual adjustment in the rent charged for a rental unit occupied by an elderly tenant or tenant with a disability that may be imposed by a housing provider in accordance with section 208(h)(2) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 42-3502.08(h)(2)),⁵ which, as amended by the Tenant Protection Emergency Act, provides that the maximum rent adjustment shall be the least of: (a) the adjustment of general applicability, as determined by this notice; (b) the Social Security COLA, as determined by this notice; or (c) 5% of the current rent charged.
7. Pursuant to section 202(a)(3)(B) of the Act, as amended by the Tenant Protection Emergency Act, the Commission hereby certifies and gives notice that **the annual adjustment in the rent charged for a covered rental unit occupied by an elderly tenant or tenant with a disability shall not exceed 0.3% of the legal rent charged** on April 30, 2017.

³ Pursuant to section 208(h)(2) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 42-3502.08(h)(2)), as amended by the Rent Control Reform Amendment Act of 2006, effective August 5, 2006 (D.C. Law 16-145; 53 D.C.R. 6688), except as provided for elderly tenants and tenants with a disability, a housing provider may increase the rent charged for a rental unit by **an additional 2% above the adjustment of general applicability**.

⁴ The Tenant Protection Emergency Act is a temporary, emergency version of certain provisions of the Elderly Tenant and Tenant with a Disability Protection Amendment Act of 2016, signed by the Mayor February 9, 2017 (D.C. Act 21-655), which will take effect permanently following 30 days of congressional review.

⁵ For the purpose of determining the maximum allowable rent increase under section 208(h)(2) of the Act, the term “elderly tenant” means a tenant who is at least **62 years of age** and “tenant with a disability” means a tenant who has **a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities**, as defined by section 206(f)(1) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 42-3502.06(f)(1)) but without regard to income.