



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 3

COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT

March 21, 2019

Rhoda Altom, President
Milestone Properties
1000 2nd Avenue, Suite 2950
Seattle, WA 98104

Ms. Altom:

As an elected representative of Seattle's working people, I stand in complete solidarity with the tenants at the Kenton Apartments, who are courageously organizing to resist your attempt to impose rent hikes of as much as 69 percent.

The majority of working families in Seattle are confronting an affordability crisis of unprecedented proportions. Renters are especially bearing the brunt of this. Throughout our region, corporate developers and landlords are hiking rents and displacing working people, communities of color, seniors, disabled community members, immigrants, LGBTQ people, and students - all this in search of mega-profits. Working people are being economically evicted, and some are being pushed into homelessness.

Given the domination of the for-profit market in Seattle, and the absence of a citywide rent control policy, it is unfortunately legal for Milestone to jack up rents as you've proposed. But it is certainly not acceptable or conscionable. Your actions, and similar rent hikes and sky-high rents imposed by other major property management corporations and big developers, are precisely why Seattle is facing such a housing affordability crisis. And renters are beginning to fight back and are getting organized.

The Kenton tenants have made you a reasonable and accommodating proposal. I urge you to accept it.

My Council office and our housing justice movement will stand with the tenants of the Kenton, and indeed with all tenants, who are resisting greedy companies like Milestone. Our movement is only just begun – to fight extortionate rent increases, demand citywide rent control with no corporate loopholes, and tax big business and the rich to fund affordable social housing for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kshama', written in a cursive style.

Kshama Sawant