

City Council Passes Renter Criminal Background Ordinance

The Detroit City Council has passed a policy preventing renters from being asked about criminal backgrounds until landlords have determined they qualify under all other phases of the rental application process.

Feb. 19, 2019

DETROIT (AP) – THE Detroit City Council has passed a policy preventing renters from being asked about criminal backgrounds until landlords have determined they qualify under all other phases of the rental application process.

The Fair Chance Housing Ordinance covers everything from apartment complexes to single-family homes. Landlords with portfolios of fewer than five units are exempt.

The ordinance says landlords may investigate criminal history once a person qualifies to rent. Housing may be denied for crimes relevant to the safety of people or property.

Landlords who want to deny housing based on criminal history must allow the applicant to provide evidence of rehabilitation that would show they are a good candidate despite their criminal record.

Applicants who believe they have been discriminated against under the ordinance can file complaints with the city.

Copyright 2019 The [Associated Press](#). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Tags: Michigan

