

## PRESS RELEASE

### Contact Information:

Ann Arbor Tenants Union  
Grace Viscito  
(802) 557-7672  
AnnArborTenantsUnion@gmail.com



### Release Date:

Jan 7, 2024

## ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES RENTAL JUNK FEE BAN

*Tenants Union celebrates progress, stresses the long road ahead for renters rights*

**Jan 7, 2024 – Ann Arbor, MI** – The Ann Arbor Tenants Union (AATU) celebrates the success of an ordinance that will [ban rental junk fees](#). This junk fee ban, which was brought forth by Councilmembers Travis Radina and Cynthia Harrison addresses many of the demands that the AATU laid out in their “Trash the Junk Fees” petition which was launched in April of this year.

The proposed junk fee ban would cap application fees at \$50 and make the fees refundable if applicants don’t receive an offer for the apartment. Importantly, it would also ban all waitlist fees. In fact, the ordinance bans all fees before move-in except the \$50 application fee and the security deposit. It also lays out punishments of up to \$1000 for landlords who don’t follow the law.

The AATU first presented its [petition demands](#) aimed at the Ann Arbor City Council and the Michigan State Legislature in April, 2024 in response to local landlords charging enormous waitlist fees, some [costing up to \\$6,745](#). Photos of the April Trash the Junk Fees rally can be found [here](#).

“This marks a huge step forward for tenants who simply cannot afford these outrageously expensive junk fees. We don’t believe a tenant should have to pay anything before moving in. However, capping refundable application fees at \$50 per unit is a reasonable path forward. The AATU is happy to see this ordinance pass and we hope to see it followed by more robust tenant protections in Ann Arbor,” said AATU representative Nathan Kim.

The AATU demands further legislation addressing fees assessed after tenancy begins, which can add to astronomically high rents tenants pay and obscure tenants’ total cost of living.

As national discourse around rental junk fees continues to heat up, the AATU is paving the way forward with an example of how other communities can ban junk fees. “Ultimately, we need these protections at the state and federal levels.”

“Our ongoing focus is on building tenant power in the home. These protections give us an additional point of leverage as we continue to organize with our neighbors for better conditions and affordable rent. Our long term vision is one where tenants, with their neighbors, collectively bargain for better leasing contracts and eventually have access to social housing that is nonprofit and publicly owned.”

###