

12-0381

MAR 16 2012

MOTION

Recently, a property management company in the City began requiring the tenants at the rental properties it manages to pay their rent online. No alternative means of payment was provided for the tenants.

Although the City is often pushing the envelope in the use of new technologies and promoting the adoption of new and efficient means of accomplishing age-old work, City policies must also be sensitive to the fact that our society continues to have a digital divide, and there are residents of our City who do not have ready access to, nor familiarity with, the use of technology.

In this circumstance, some of the tenants served by the management company are elderly and averse to computer use or are otherwise unable to conveniently and regularly access the internet. There is no reason why renters like these should be forced to adopt new technology for the purpose of paying for their housing.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council INSTRUCTS the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that requires all landlords and property managers in the city to provide an alternative means of paying rent and any associated rental fees if they adopt an online rent payment system.

I FURTHER MOVE that the ordinance should include a means by which the Housing Department can take an enforcement action against a landlords or property managers who fail to provide a non-internet means by which tenants may pay rent.

Presented by: Paul Krekorian
PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

Seconded by: [Signature]

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ORIGINAL