

May 8, 2019

Honorable Members of the Housing Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: **CF 14-0268-S13**

Dear Honorable Members Cedillo, Krekorian, and Harris-Dawson;

I write to urge your support of the Anti-Tenant Harassment Ordinance, with all revisions and amendments intact, and to send it to the full City Council with a recommendation for passage with all possible speed.

Harassment by landlords and their agents is one of the most prevalent and egregious hardships tenants in Los Angeles face. Harassment is often the precursor to evictions, or otherwise forcing tenants out of their homes by creating such hostile environments that it is impossible to stay. As we stand now, there are no protections for tenants against harassment. I volunteer as a caseworker for a tenants' rights organization, and I can tell you, from my experience, that we receive scores of calls every week which deal with tenants being hounded and harassed in transparent attempts to force them from their homes. We all know why this is happening. It is heartbreaking to have to tell them that there is no help for them because what the landlord is doing is not illegal. We must change this; we must make these actions illegal, with consequences, and provide tenants with some avenues for relief.

Since the Anti-Tenant Harassment Ordinance was first proposed for study, over 2 years ago, it is estimated that as many as 100,000 tenants have been evicted in Los Angeles, with harassment being the primary contributor to those evictions.

This ordinance will, as crafted, certainly be a strong deterrent to harassing behavior, and the increased monetary penalties, special penalties for the harassment of seniors and the disabled, and provision for awarding attorney's fees are key elements in insuring this. It is to be expected that the passing of this ordinance, in its entirety, will drastically reduce the number of evictions in our city, and will help insure that we can live our lives in peace. In the end that is what we all want, and it is that to which we all have a right.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Lois DeArmond
3706 Country Club Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90019
Los Angeles renter for 45 years.

