

Subject: Council File 14-0268-S13/Anti-tenant harassment ordinance
From: Samantha Gordon Danner <samanthadanner@easthollywood.net>
To: councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org,councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org,councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org
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Dear Honorable Council Members and Mr. Lid,

I am writing in support of the proposal outlined in the report from the Housing and Community Investment Department dated 12/03/2018 laying out recommendations for an anti-tenant harassment ordinance in response to Council file 14-0268-S13. As the tenant representative for the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council, an LA neighborhood with an extremely high proportion of renters, I have personally responded to several requests from community stakeholders being harassed by landlords and management companies. And, on a personal note, I myself have been harassed by a landlord and various other entities associated with my former landlord, Cali RL LLC, being denied necessary repairs and maintenance of my rental unit and common space, being subject to surprise 'inspection' of my rental unit, and being threatened with retaliation for exercising my rights as a tenant.

I urge the council members to adopt the most inclusive versions of these recommendations, allowing both RSO and non-RSO tenants the full range of anti-harassment protections. The need for the city of Los Angeles to step in and protect vulnerable citizens from being harassed and taken advantage of should not be underestimated. With availability of affordable housing at record lows and the stagnation of wages for the majority of workers, finding and staying in safe and clean housing is no easy feat. Indeed, tenant harassment can lead to poor health outcomes such as elevated stress, trauma and depression, constituting a public health concern, and, in the worst-case scenario, to homelessness, which is already a major crisis facing our city. Thank you for your consideration with respect to this urgent matter.

Best,
Samantha

Samantha Gordon Danner
Tenant Representative
East Hollywood Neighborhood Council