

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, in 99% of counties nationwide, individuals working full-time earning minimum wage are unable to afford a one bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent; and

WHEREAS, Forbes magazine advised in 2018 that Los Angeles was the worst City for renters; that the average monthly rent of \$2,172, is two-thirds higher than the national average; and that the cost of rent accounts for 41 percent of the local median household income (2<sup>nd</sup> highest in their study of 46 cities); and

WHEREAS, estimates show that 21 million Americans spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent and more than 565,000 new low-income rental units are needed in Los Angeles; and


WHEREAS, United States Senator Kamala Harris has introduced the Rent Relief Act, which would provide a tax credit to individuals who are paying more than 30 percent of their income on their monthly rent, and California Congressman Jimmy Gomez is expected to introduce a companion bill in the House or Representatives; and

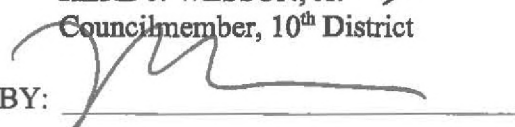
WHEREAS, Senator Harris has said that housing is a human right, yet affordability remains out of reach for too many individuals, and Representative Gomez states that urban centers are facing an unprecedented crisis of skyrocketing rents and shortages of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia Center on Poverty and Social Policy advises that this legislation would reduce the poverty rate by as much as 2.4 percent, as 7.8 million Americans would be taken out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, the City should support the Rent Relief Act because over the past two decades in Los Angeles rental rates have risen nearly three times as fast as renter's income, California has the highest poverty rate in the Country, and LA County has the highest poverty rate in the State;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-20 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for the Rent Relief Act as introduced in the United States Senate and any similar legislation that would provide tax credits to individuals who are paying more than 30 percent of their income on their rent.

PRESENTED BY:   
 HERB J. WESSON, Jr.  
 Councilmember, 10<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

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