

Communication from Public

Name: Jane Demian

Date Submitted: 06/27/2020 08:07 AM

Council File No: 19-0914

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to urge the Homelessness and Poverty Committee to allocate AT LEAST \$6 million of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding to the Eviction Defense Program so that tenants who have lost income due to COVID-19 and unable to pay rent will have no / low cost legal representation when the emergency is lifted and eviction notices are followed by Court Summons. Once the emergency is lifted property owners will be evicting tenants en masse leading to thousands of unhoused people in Los Angeles who must resort to couch surfing, living in their cars and erecting tents on sidewalks and in parks. Our 2020 homeless count has increased by 14% in the City of Los Angeles, and we must prevent homelessness as a priority. The Emergency Renters Relief Program will be conducted as a \$100 million lottery only as a short stop-gap measure and will not provide help to all the tenants who need help. Please allocate AT LEAST \$6 million to the Eviction Defense Program so that tenants will have a fair chance at legal representation in this City, and prevent homelessness. Thank you.