

Communication from Public

Name: Joe Delgado

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:10 AM

Council File No: 19-0914

Comments for Public Posting: For a year the Right to Counsel coalition has advocated for HHAPP dollars to be a source of funding for the Eviction Defense Program (the City's name for what we would call "right to counsel"). I am calling the on the committee to approve the \$6 million out of HHAPP, motion that was previously approved. And we say that this is to get infrastructure in place to address current illegal evictions and prevent further displacement and to start ramp up to anticipated tidal of evictions/displacement when court lifts its suspension of summons.

Communication from Public

Name: Greg Spiegel

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 10:29 AM

Council File No: 19-0914

Comments for Public Posting: • On behalf of Inner City Law Center and the low-income families and un-housed people we represent, we are asking you to allocate AT LEAST \$6 million of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding to the Eviction Prevention and Defense Program so that families will not be illegally displaced from their homes. • The need is great. Before the pandemic, one in three renter families were paying more than 50% of their income on rent. The pandemic has only made things worse: tens of thousands of renters have lost their jobs and it has disproportionately impacted people of color. More families are at risk than ever before. • While, the City's prohibition on certain evictions and the court's suspension on issuing eviction summons has stopped landlords from using the legal system to displace families, every day landlords are acting illegally to lock out renters who have with a legal right to stay in their homes. • These tenants need resources right now. They need outreach and education to know that they have rights and they need access to advocacy resources to make those rights meaningful. That's right now. • And when the State of Emergency is lifted, the need will be even more dire. The City's eviction protections and the courts suspension will be lifted. Even where tenants have a legal right to stay in their homes, if they are unrepresented in court, the tenants will lose. • While the City will have rental assistance, as currently designed, it would pay for a couple of months, and only for those who win the rental assistance lottery. The overwhelming majority of renters will not get assistance. • But it is not too late to do something to prevent the current illegal lockouts and the coming tidal wave of displacement. • At an upcoming Homelessness and Poverty Committee meeting, this Committee will have the opportunity to fund a previously approved motion for \$6 million in HHAPP funding for the City's Eviction Prevention and Defense Program. • While the Eviction Prevention and Defense Program was recently approved by the full Council, so far there is no funding. • In NYC where there is a similar program, 84% of renters facing eviction that receive legal representation get to stay in their homes, including renters being accused of failing to pay rent. • By acting now to fund the program, the City Council can ensure that the infrastructure is in place to both prevent current illegal lockouts and prevent and defend against illegal evictions

after the courts are open.

Communication from Public

Name: End Homelessness Now-LA

Date Submitted: 06/29/2020 11:57 AM

Council File No: 19-0914

Comments for Public Posting: End Homelessness Now-La is a grassroots campaign that was formed in 2018 after the City Council turned down a proposal by the Aids Healthcare Foundation to turn the Parker Center, LA's former police headquarters, vacant for over five years, into a facility that could house 732 people. The City Council decided instead to tear down the Parker Center and put up a 27-story building for city offices for total cost of about \$1 billion. Our campaign urges city and county governments to stop giving millions of dollars to wealthy developers, landlords and bureaucrats and instead deploy their vacant and underused land and buildings to build, own, and run permanent, supportive public housing as the solution to the homelessness catastrophe. Today, as the homelessness catastrophe is compounded by the COVID-19 epidemic and continues to be plagued by systemic racism, every government-owned vacant or underused property--and other properties that they can acquire--must be turned into such housing immediately. Item 8 on today's agenda, HHAP Program Funding Recommendations, describes money being spent on Bridge housing that is temporary and comes with criminalization of unhoused people not able to get into the shelters. At the rate that homelessness continues to increase, temporary shelters and criminalization are clearly not the answer. Therefore, EHN-LA calls on you to immediately: 1. Open and retrofit all of their empty and underused buildings for permanent public housing where people can protect themselves in separate spaces now and in the future. 2. Quickly build permanent supportive public housing on large vacant lots, using modular and other innovative construction. 3. Turn parking lots and other vacant space into trailer parks with utility hookups where trailers, RVs, and even cars that are being lived in can gather in safe areas with centralized services. Then, keep those trailer parks open for as places for permanent low-cost homes. 4. Eliminate all zoning and planning barriers to immediate implementation of the above demands. In support of this demand, EHN-LA gathered hundreds of signatures on a petition to District 8 council member Marqueece Harris-Dawson to eliminate such barriers at the large city-owned vacant land at 60th & S. Western. This is a prime location for such a project. It has been vacant for years and could house hundreds of people. With modular and other innovative

construction, housing could be built at 1/5th the current cost of HHH projects. These petitions are being delivered to Mr. Harris-Dawson today. We call on other council members to do the same with all vacant properties in their districts.