

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, the impacts of the worldwide pandemic are drastic in the United States, with over 357,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases, over 10,000 deaths and 6.6 million initial unemployment claims, and over 700,000 jobs lost as of the latest March 2020 US jobs report; and

WHEREAS, the nationwide pandemic response has led to over 40 states to issue orders relating to COVID-19, including but not limited to social distancing guidelines, an almost complete elimination of public gatherings with “Safer-At-Home” orders, and a top down state encouraged mandate to keep people housed by any and all legal means necessary; and

WHEREAS, in response to the spread of COVID-19, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom and Mayor Garcetti declared a state of emergency, issuing sweeping protections across the State including “Safer-At-Home” orders while activating a response strategy focused on people, communities and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Order issued by Governor Newsom on March 4, 2020 allows jurisdictions to cease all evictions of residential and commercial property, pursuant to a decrease in household or business income, or out-of-pocket medical expenses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the nonpayment of rent; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, pursuant to the California Constitution, article VI, section 6 and Government Code 68115, including the authority granted by Governor Newsom and the Judicial Council, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye issued a 60 day stay to criminal and civil proceedings, coinciding and concurring with the declared emergency issued by Governor Newsom; and

WHEREAS, while eviction proceedings are now paused due to State and Court action, the City of Los Angeles has a particular interest in ensuring that residents have secure housing during the COVID-19 pandemic by further strengthening eviction protections across the city for any and all economic and health related reasons as a result of COVID-19 by ensuring that any debt owed for postponed rent is only due a year after the end of the declared emergency; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has passed three stimulus bills to combat the COVID-19 crisis, the latest being the CARES Act, which adds direct relief for individuals by strengthening unemployment insurance, paid family leave and sick pay, while providing billions to state & local governments, public health institutions, including provisions to small, mid-sized and large businesses; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act provides a temporary moratorium on new eviction filings for foreclosures and evictions due to nonpayment for renters and homeowners in all federally subsidized


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housing, including Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) housing and people living in properties covered by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration; a confusing patchwork of state and local eviction and foreclosure moratoriums currently exists that provides protections for some, yet confusion for all; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Pelosi recently outlined her priorities in an open letter to the members of the House of Representatives, making the case for an upcoming fourth stimulus bill (CARES 2) that will expand assistance to working families, local and state governments, hospitals, federally qualified health clinics, health workers, and first responders; and

WHEREAS, Emergency rental assistance to preempt any evictions that could occur as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most important goals of the City of Los Angeles;

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 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation or administrative action that would provide billions of dollars to support housing relief funds for purposes such as to extend forgiveness assistance to renters, property owners, and mortgage holders; extend assistance to working families, small to mid-sized businesses, educational institutions, hospitals, and first responders; and other programs that relieve the impacts of COVID-19.

PRESENTED BY:


MITCH O'FARRELL NURY MARTINEZ MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 13th District Councilmember, 6th District Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY: Paul Kebonian

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