

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, As of April 6, 2020, the State of California had identified 15,823 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 6360 being diagnosed in Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020 Governor Gavin Newsom and Mayor Garcetti declared a State of Emergency, allowing the State of California and City of Los Angeles to deploy all available state and local resources to stem the spread of the virus while being able to access federal resources, and on March 19, 2020 Governor Newsom issued a Stay-at-Home Order, limiting Californians to only essential activities away from their homes in order to reduce the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, while this Order is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health, the combined effects of the virus and necessary public health measures have resulted in significant financial impacts, particularly to low and moderate-income Californians; and

WHEREAS, working people across California are facing layoffs, a reduction of wages and income, the accumulation of late payment fees and other expenses, and are struggling to pay rent and buy basic necessities, and with more than 40 percent of households in Los Angeles County spending over 30 percent of their income on rent and struggling to meet basic needs, and more than 60 percent of households with children struggling to meet basic needs, it is critical that we provide immediate relief and make every effort to safeguard our local, regional and state economies; and

WHEREAS, while the City of Los Angeles has put in place tenant protections that prevent landlords from evicting tenants for non-payment of rent if they are unable to pay because of COVID-19 related reasons, retaining the obligation to pay would mean that those who defer payments will accumulate significant personal debt, and potentially increase homelessness and destitution in the City as a result of the public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has moved swiftly to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 by instituting a Safer-at-Home Order to limit public gatherings and ramping up COVID-19 testing availability, and developing policies to protect Angelenos from the potential economic fall-out of the virus, such as implementing moratoriums on residential and



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commercial evictions, an economic relief package for small businesses impacted by the virus, the development of a potential citywide personal loan and rental assistance program, and the provision of financial assistance to nonprofits that are providing personal loans and rental assistance to Angelenos impacted by COVID-19, among others; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the Federal Government approved a historic \$2 trillion stimulus package, the largest emergency aid package in US history, aimed at helping American workers, small businesses and industries grappling with the economic disruption, and are currently working on a Phase Four stimulus package in response to the emergency; and

WHEREAS, given the unintended upstream and downstream effects that come with providing relief to strictly to mortgage lenders and financial institutions or strictly to renters and borrowers, there is a clear need to establish a comprehensive rent and mortgage forgiveness program; and

WHEREAS, while City and County efforts to protect the health and safety of Californians are commendable and much needed, creating policy at the local level during an emergency has the potential to create a patchwork of responses and approaches and confusion for Californians;

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 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for state legislative, administrative or executive action that would establish a statewide comprehensive rent and mortgage relief program for Californians impacted by COVID-19 to ensure that no property owner or renter would be required to make mortgage or rental payments, or accumulate interest, late fees or other housing related debt, for the duration of the health emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER 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 federal legislative, administrative or executive action that would establish a nationwide comprehensive rent and mortgage relief program for Americans impacted by COVID-19 to ensure that no property owner or renter would be required to make mortgage or rental payments, or accumulate interest, late fees or other housing related debt, for the duration of the health emergency.

PRESENTED BY:



DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



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