

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: My name is Mindy Garland and I am representing the Los Angeles, Black Worker Center. I am writing to urge City Council to enact stronger protections for Black community members and all vulnerable communities in response to COVID-19. I encourage you all to support motions to:

1. Enact a Strong Moratorium on Evictions related to both nonpayment of rent and the presence of unauthorized occupants and pets, as well as all “no cause” evictions. People should not have to go to court to prove the impact of coronavirus on them to counter an eviction filing. Nobody should be evicted during an emergency that requires people to shelter in place.
2. Have the City work with the State and financial institutions to Suspend Mortgage payments for homeowners and landlords, and Forgive Rent obligations for the duration of the crisis, including a recovery period after the state of emergency is lifted.
3. Implement an immediate Freeze on all residential and commercial Rent Increases and prohibit landlords from charging late fees.
4. Immediately Supply dumpsters, showers, hand washing stations, bathrooms, vermin abatement, soap, and water to every informal settlement in Los Angeles.
5. Prioritize workplace health and safety, including mandated Paid time for and access to hand-washing and sanitizing, provision of Protective gear, and appropriate Training for those still at work, especially grocery workers, food service workers, and delivery drivers.
6. Provide 14 days of Paid Sick Leave to all workers and prohibit retaliation against those who take it. Workers must feel safe to stay home through their illness for the public’s safety.
7. Protect workers’ livelihoods by enacting “just cause,” “right of recall,” and “worker retention” policies to stop unscrupulous employers from unjustly terminating workers during this crisis, and to ensure that when it is safe to return to work, they still have jobs to return to.

Again, I urge you all to act quickly to ensure protections for Black Angelenos and other vulnerable communities impacted by this pandemic.