

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 20-0404

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of this Motion. As it stands now, an eviction can be filed against tenants for non-payment of rent due to loss of income as a result of COVID-19. The burden is on tenants to prove in an affirmative defense before a court of law that loss of income and non-payment of rent is due to COVID-19. While attempting to shelter in place, maintain physical distancing and stay healthy, receiving an eviction filing is a cruel and unnecessary burden. When a tenant receives an eviction filing, they will attempt to locate legal representation while trying to shelter in place, will have to spend money to hire an attorney, and will anticipate a court date in a few months. The process places an unnecessary burden on tenants whose loss of income is due to no fault of their own. When the courthouses open, a bureaucratic nightmare will result when tenants and their representatives will be required to file answers to the eviction filing. It is unconscionable that landlords are allowed to evict tenants during a worldwide pandemic! If property owners are concerned about tenants not paying rent, then property owners need to urge Councilmembers and the Governor to legislate a suspension of mortgage payments during and after the crisis. I urge all Councilmembers to support this Motion to PROHIBIT ANY RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS from taking place, with an exception for the safety of other occupants of the property. This Motion should be in effect for the duration of the crisis and 90 days after the emergency order is lifted.