

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Dylan Holmes. I am a recent transplant to Los Angeles and resident of Koreatown. I live with my partner and our friend in an apartment. We are young professionals in our 20s, doing our best to make ends meet and build a future in an increasingly uncertain world. Over two weeks ago, my partner lost his job due to the pandemic. He is one of the 1.3 million residents of Los Angeles County whose livelihood has been taken from him as a result of this disaster and our nation's neglectful response to it. I will soon join him in unemployment, with my work naturally coming to a stop in June. We were planning on working part-time and moving into a new space once school recommenced in August. Now, all of that is uncertain. Though our prospects are unfortunate, our experience pales in comparison to what some of these 1.3 million newly-unemployed residents are going through. These are people with families, people acting as caretakers for their ailing parents and grandparents, people who were already struggling to make ends meet in an increasingly unaffordable city, people who risk going bankrupt getting treated for coronavirus symptoms. We are only beginning to see the rippling economic effect this pandemic will have on people, families, and small businesses. Los Angeles cannot risk putting more people out on the streets when there are already at least 59,000 already there - an increase of over 33% over the last four years. Without these basic protections, that number will surge exponentially over the coming months and years as people are kicked out of their homes and apartments for the crime of being a member of the working class during a pandemic. Dramatic and unprecedented changes like this demand dramatic and unprecedented solutions. In America, these solutions amount to what the rest of the civilized world is already doing: suspending rent-related evictions, freezing rent increases, and coordinating work with responsible banks to provide relief to mortgage holders and renters. To that end, it is not a question of debate whether every Councilmember should vote for Items 28, 37, 38, 39, 58, 59, and 61. They absolutely must vote for each of these items at a minimum. Doing so ensures that every resident has a fighting chance in an otherwise deeply unequal society. It is my understanding that the majority of public comments currently come from landlords and those with entrenched business interests

at stake. These individuals do not speak for the millions of Angelenos this crisis most impacts, and I would like this comment to stand as public record of that. We desperately, desperately need these measures to be put in place, and I urge City Council to rise to the occasion.