

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

Name: Nicholas Pisca

Phone Number:

Email: nicholas.pisca@highlandparknc.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(11) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 06/03/2021

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 06/29/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 14-0268-S13

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council, representing more than 60,000 stakeholders, supports the recommended language changes to the Draft Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (letter) which have been proposed by Councilmember Raman in her letter to the public file dated April 9, 2021. We ask you to consider closely the benefits of such changes in supporting our City's most vulnerable renters, especially in conjunction with a necessary Renters Right to Counsel measure for tenants in eviction proceedings. The harassment of tenants in order to remove long term rent stabilized renters from desirable locations is a nefariously common practice in our City. In 2018, the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department received over 10,000 requests for enforcement against harassment. Such harassment includes threats, reduction in services and amenities, illegal rent increases, and more. If a landlord is willing to harass tenants they can employ many shameful tactics to make life extremely unpleasant. Making such actions illegal is a necessary first step.

**HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL**

Post Office Box 50791
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<http://www.highlandparknc.com>
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

**CITY OF LOS
ANGELES**

CALIFORNIA



**DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD
EMPOWERMENT**

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Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

June 3rd, 2021

Attn: Council President Nury Martinez & Councilmember Kevin De Leon

From: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

RE: Renters Relief Registry / Ranking System / Transparent / Equitable / Housing Assistance
([Council File: 14-0268-S13](#))

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council, representing more than 60,000 stakeholders, supports the recommended language changes to the Draft Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance ([letter](#)) which have been proposed by Councilmember Raman in her letter to the public file dated April 9, 2021. We ask you to consider closely the benefits of such changes in supporting our City's most vulnerable renters, especially in conjunction with a necessary Renters Right to Counsel measure for tenants in eviction proceedings.

The harassment of tenants in order to remove long term rent stabilized renters from desirable locations is a nefariously common practice in our City. In 2018, the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department received over 10,000 requests for enforcement against harassment. Such harassment includes threats, reduction in services and amenities, illegal rent increases, and more. If a landlord is willing to harass tenants they can employ many shameful tactics to make life extremely unpleasant. Making such actions illegal is a necessary first step.

The proposed changes will refine the language of this ordinance to mandate fiscal penalties that will deter landlords from engaging in harassment against their tenants. It is the goal that this

revised language will increase private right of action where tenants will be able to hire legal representation. Currently, as there is minimal financial recovery in harassment cases, it is only our housing advocacy non-profits who do the bulk of the work in representing tenants in legal cases. As the demand for service by tenants greatly exceeds the available supply of non-profit legal aid services, many tenants lack representation.

As such, the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council recommends that:

An anti-harassment ordinance that mandates landlord fiscal penalties be put into place to stem the tide of tenant harassment, which would be a key tool to prevent future evictions and will have measurable benefits in reducing the supply of newly unhoused residents in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles join other major cities, including New York City, San Francisco, Newark, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Boulder, and Baltimore, and passes a right to counsel measure for tenants in eviction proceedings. Making sure all tenants have the right to counsel is necessary for any anti-harassment ordinance to have its desired impact of protecting tenants and holding landlords accountable. Guaranteed legal representation would give tenants a fair chance to access legal protections and stay in their homes.

The motion was approved by a vote of: [11] Yes, [0] No, [0] Abstention, [8] Absent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Estrella Sainburg', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Estrella Sainburg

President,

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council