

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Although not on today's agenda, it is well past time to pass the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance. The purpose of LA's rent control laws is to provide affordable housing in one of the least affordable cities in the nation. However, unscrupulous landlord often employ harassment to influence tenants to give up their uniquely affordable homes so that the landlord can reset the rent to market rate. Harassment takes many forms: abusing the right of access into the rental unit; incessant phone calls and texts; removal of housing services, such as parking spaces; eviction notices alleging minor lease breaches, such as claiming that a window air conditioner is an illegal alteration of the rental unit; threats of eviction and the effect upon a tenant's credit record and future inability to rent; deliberately choosing not to address repairs and slum-like conditions; refusing rent; and even placing trash dumpsters outside a tenant's window. The recently-enacted affirmative right of action in the case of a landlord's violation of COVID-related tenant protections is a positive first step; but it only deals with one small aspect of tenant harassment. Given that landlords may have to wait up to a year to receive back rent, harassment will only escalate. It is vital that the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance be adopted immediately.