

Communication from Public

Name: Anthony Dedousis
Date Submitted: 09/08/2020 02:00 PM
Council File No: 14-0268-S13
Comments for Public Posting: Hello, Please see attached for Abundant Housing LA's letter supporting the proposed tenant anti-harassment ordinance. Thank you, Anthony Dedousis



September 8, 2020

Council President Nury Martinez
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council President Martinez,

Abundant Housing LA writes in support of two tenants' rights measures currently before the Los Angeles City Council: the proposed [Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance](#), and the [Just Cause Eviction protection program](#). We are a pro-housing education and advocacy organization working to help solve Southern California's housing crisis. We support stronger tenant protections and preservation of affordable housing.

In 2018, HCIDLA proposed a comprehensive [tenant anti-harassment program](#), and followed up earlier this year with cost estimates and funding recommendations. This program would define and codify illegal harassment activities, provide a landlord-tenant mediation service for conflict resolution, and stiffen penalties on abusive landlords. We are concerned about landlords using unscrupulous practices to force their tenants to leave their homes, and we believe that this ordinance will help to reduce this behavior and more effectively punish bad actors.

We also strongly favor limiting evictions to "just cause" scenarios, which prevents landlords from using sudden, sharp rent increases to push out tenants. In January, HCIDLA [released recommendations](#) to implement a citywide Just Cause Eviction protection program for non-RSO rental units, as permitted under the Tenant Protection Act of 2019 (AB 1482). This applies key Just Cause protections, including relocation assistance at the same level as RSO relocation requirements, and proper tenant notifications, to non-RSO rental units. We support the proposed ordinance.

Additionally, we recommend that the Just Cause Eviction ordinance include measures to strengthen enforcement, increase fines for infractions, require landlords to report all evictions to HCIDLA, and to make all eviction data fully available to the public. These additional steps will make the ordinance even more effective.

We urge you to protect tenants' rights by ensuring that the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance and the Just Cause Eviction protection program receive a City Council vote this year. Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to helping renters.

Sincerely,

Anthony Dedousis
Director of Policy and Research
Abundant Housing LA