

Communication from Public

Name: Alexander Harnden, ICLC
Date Submitted: 10/14/2020 03:05 PM
Council File No: 14-0268-S13
Comments for Public Posting: Enclosed, please find comments on behalf of Inner City Law Center urging passage of this critical ordinance.



October 14, 2020

Housing Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Urgent Need for Passage of Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (14-0268-S13)

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Inner City Law Center, we ask the Housing Committee to advocate to advance the pending Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance to the full City Council. The pandemic has exacerbated displacement pressures across the nation and here in Los Angeles, and there has been an increase in inappropriate behavior on the part of landlords pushing families out of rent-stabilized homes and communities. Especially as eviction protections have been put in place to shield tenants from the concrete health risks of displacement during a pandemic, renters have reported an increase in harassing and intimidating behavior on the part of their landlords seeking to circumvent the legal process.

The consequences of this increased tenant harassment, and of a failure to enact common sense tenant protections to prevent it, are clear. For the many renters who cannot find affordable or appropriate replacement housing, displacement means homelessness, and the very real threat of increased exposure to COVID-19 and an inability to protect oneself.

While the eviction protections passed by the Council are critically important to ensure tenants are not displaced through the legal eviction process, these protections fail to address the non-legal ways that landlords push people out of their homes, and rules regarding tenant harassment are urgently needed to protect tenants from this illegal behavior. Tenant advocacy groups like Inner City Law Center are seeing an increasing number of landlords who are taking the law into their own hands and locking people out of their homes without a court order or engaging in other inappropriate or illegal behavior to encourage tenants to give up their homes.

For years, tenants have called upon the City Council to pass a Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance. During the pandemic, the need is even greater, but the Council has failed to take action. We reiterate our call that you, as the Council's leaders on housing issues, advance the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance for approval by the full City Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Harnden', written over a horizontal line.

Alexander Harnden
Public Policy Advocate
Inner City Law Center