

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Curtis Skinner

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 02:30 PM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S13

**Comments for Public Posting:** Good afternoon; I'm Curtis Skinner, community economic development fellow with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. I'm making a general public comment urging Councilmember Krekorian to waive the tenant anti-harassment ordinance immediately from the budget & finance committee so that Council President Martinez can schedule it for a final vote at full council. The ordinance grew out of years of grassroots efforts to resist the daily harassment that many tenants experience across the city of Los Angeles. More recently, tenants have been organizing around the issue to defend themselves against unscrupulous landlords that have tried taking advantage of the confusion and fear around the COVID-19 pandemic to become even more aggressive in intimidating tenants. This is an emergency. State law in these cases is actually very limited. Harassment is only illegal in truly extreme cases, and even then a tenant has to prove that a landlord's intent was to actually drive them from their homes. Los Angeles needs to join other jurisdictions that have already moved to protect renters, and pass this ordinance. Tenants and advocates have been pleading with city leaders to get this ordinance adopted for years. And as many Angelenos are facing precarious housing and financial realities, the time to act is now. In the longer term, this ordinance will deter unfair and abusive practices against tenants and will also help level the playing field, thereby creating more housing stability for Los Angeles communities. Thank you members and thank you staff.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Allison Riley

**Date Submitted:** 10/26/2020 10:32 AM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S13

**Comments for Public Posting:** The renters of Los Angeles are in a precarious position and need support of the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (TAHO), which should have been on today's agenda. Since you have not made time for this critical ordinance, we are calling on Committee Chair, Councilmember Krekorian to waive the item immediately from the Budget & Finance committee so that Council President Martinez can schedule it for a final vote at full Council. Los Angeles' Temporary Covid-19 Tenant Protections are no Substitute for a Permanent Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance. The most important differences between a proposed Permanent Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance and Los Angeles' Temporary Covid-19 Tenant Protections are the scope and duration of their respective ordinances. A Permanent Tenant Anti-Harassment ordinance would protect tenants from a wide range of harassing behavior indefinitely. Conversely, the Temporary Covid-19 Protections only prohibit bad acts related to the current pandemic and those protections will eventually expire. These two ordinances are so different in scope and duration that the Temporary Covid-19 protections should not be considered a substitute for a Permanent Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance.