

Communication from Public

Name: Scott Davis

Date Submitted: 11/09/2020 04:33 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S13

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I am writing today to ask the City Council's Housing Committee to waive the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (TAHO) out of Committee so it can be brought to the full City Council and approved as soon as possible. Before the pandemic hit, Los Angeles was already suffering from a displacement crisis where corporate landlords seeking ever-higher profits were pushing families out of their rent-stabilized homes and communities. Some landlords would use the legal system to evict tenants while others saved the attorneys' fees by directly harassing and intimidating renters out of their homes. In this way, legal evictions are only the tip of the displacement iceberg; for the landlord who wants only higher profits, direct harassment is often a cheaper and faster road to vacating a unit. Our experience is that more tenants are displaced via harassment than the eviction process. And the consequences are dire: For renters who cannot find replacement affordable housing, displacement can mean living in cars, in shelters or on the street. There's nothing new about this but the pandemic is making things worse. Since the economic collapse triggered by the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of households are behind in their rent. In RSO buildings, renters with long-term tenancies and below-market rents are being targeted by corporate landlords. While City Council has passed important protections for limiting the grounds for legally evicting during the pandemic, the protections do not adequately address the non-legal ways that landlords push people out of their homes. 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. Several instances have been reported in the media. When landlords act in this way, renters have few protections and even fewer resources to address the problem. No City or County agency currently believes it has sufficient legal authority to protect tenants from landlord harassment. At best, a renter can file a complaint but typically, no action is taken to prevent the displacement. And the LAPD often ends up taking the side of the landlord, putting property above people. For more than three years now, tenants have called upon the City Council to pass a Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance. During the pandemic, the need has become even greater. Before

any more families are pushed out of their homes, we ask you to please act today to get the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance out of Housing and to the full City Council for consideration and approval. Thanks for your consideration. Hope you all are staying safe!

Communication from Public

Name: Deborah Hoetger

Date Submitted: 11/09/2020 05:04 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S13

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of Inner City Law Center, I ask the City Council's Housing Committee to waive the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (TAHO) out of Committee so it can be brought to the full City Council and approved as soon as possible. Before the pandemic hit, Los Angeles was already suffering from a displacement crisis where corporate landlords seeking ever-higher profits were pushing families out of their rent-stabilized homes and communities. Some landlords would use the legal system to evict tenants while others saved the attorneys' fees by directly harassing and intimidating renters out of their homes. In this way, legal evictions are only the tip of the displacement iceberg; for the landlord who wants only higher profits, direct harassment is often a cheaper and faster road to vacating a unit. Our experience is that more tenants are displaced via harassment than the eviction process. And the consequences are dire: For renters who cannot find replacement affordable housing, displacement can mean living in cars, in shelters or on the street. There's nothing new about this but the pandemic is making things worse. Since the economic collapse triggered by the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of households are behind in their rent. In RSO buildings, renters with long-term tenancies and below-market rents are being targeted by corporate landlords. While City Council has passed important protections for limiting the grounds for legally evicting during the pandemic, the protections do not adequately address the non-legal ways that landlords push people out of their homes. 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. Several instances have been reported in the media. When landlords act in this way, renters have few protections and even fewer resources to address the problem. No City or County agency currently believes it has sufficient legal authority to protect tenants from landlord harassment. At best, a renter can file a complaint but typically, no action is taken to prevent the displacement. And the LAPD often ends up taking the side of the landlord, putting property above people. For more than three years now, tenants have called upon the City Council to pass a Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance. During the pandemic, the need has become even greater. Before

any more families are pushed out of their homes, we ask you to please act today to get the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance out of Housing and to the full City Council for consideration and approval. Thank you for your consideration. Deborah B. Hoetger
Senior Staff Attorney, Inner City Law Center

Communication from Public

Name: Jessa McCormack

Date Submitted: 11/09/2020 05:15 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S13

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Jessa McCormack and I am the Program Manager for Housing Justice at the Liberty Hill Foundation. I support the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance and urge you to ensure it applies to all rental units in our city. Dozens of tenants have shared their stories of landlord harassment with me, and unfortunately many of the tactics are similar: intentional damage to the property, refusal to fix pest or safety issues, surveilling tenants through photos without consent or excessive visits to the property without notice, unfounded threats of legal action or eviction, and more. Coerced displacement was unacceptable before the pandemic; now it directly puts the health and safety of the displaced at risk. We must prevent people from becoming homeless always, but especially in the middle of a global pandemic. I urge the City Council and Council President to immediately pass the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance in order to protect tenants from harmful harassment that happens day-in and day-out to tens of thousands of tenants and ultimately leads to “silent” evictions that go unrecorded. This is an essential long-term protection for all of the tenants who call our city home.

Communication from Public

Name: Jacob

Date Submitted: 11/09/2020 06:09 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S13

Comments for Public Posting: TENANTS NEED PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT As an organizer with the LA Tenants Union, I have heard so many horror stories of tenants being harassed by their landlords, in all sorts of ways. That LA doesn't have an ordinance to deal with this is a huge problem. Lawyers who can take cases to protect tenants in Santa Monica cannot do so in LA because they don't have the laws to rely on! Tenants are effectively left completely unprotected by the law, with no remedies. PLEASE PASS A STRONG ANTI-TENANT HARASSMENT ORDINANCE. Bad landlords should be punished. And tenants need some protection.

Communication from Public

Name: Greg Spiegel

Date Submitted: 11/09/2020 09:26 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S13

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of Inner City Law Center, we ask the City Council's Housing Committee to waive the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (TAHO) out of Committee so it can be brought to the full City Council and approved as soon as possible. Before the pandemic hit, Los Angeles was already suffering from a displacement crisis where corporate landlords seeking ever-higher profits were pushing families out of their rent-stabilized homes and communities. Some landlords would use the legal system to evict tenants while others saved the attorneys' fees by directly harassing and intimidating renters out of their homes. In this way, legal evictions are only the tip of the displacement iceberg; for the landlord who wants only higher profits, direct harassment is often a cheaper and faster road to vacating a unit. Our experience is that more tenants are displaced via harassment than the eviction process. And the consequences are dire: For renters who cannot find replacement affordable housing, displacement can mean living in cars, in shelters or on the street. There's nothing new about this but the pandemic is making things worse. Since the economic collapse triggered by the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of households are behind in their rent. In RSO buildings, renters with long-term tenancies and below-market rents are being targeted by corporate landlords. While City Council has passed important protections for limiting the grounds for legally evicting during the pandemic, the protections do not adequately address the non-legal ways that landlords push people out of their homes. 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. Several instances have been reported in the media. When landlords act in this way, renters have few protections and even fewer resources to address the problem. No City or County agency currently believes it has sufficient legal authority to protect tenants from landlord harassment. At best, a renter can file a complaint but typically, no action is taken to prevent the displacement. And the LAPD often ends up taking the side of the landlord, putting property above people. For more than four years now, tenants have called upon the City Council to pass a Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance. During the pandemic, the need has become even greater. Before

any more families are pushed out of their homes, we ask you to please act today to get the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance out of Housing and to the full City Council for consideration and approval. Thanks for your consideration

Communication from Public

Name: Miki Jackson

Date Submitted: 11/09/2020 11:14 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S13

Comments for Public Posting: Miki Jackson for AHF, Healthy Housing, Housing is a Human Right. Item 5. This measure has been worked on for over 2 years. It is past time when it should have been implemented and be protecting tenants. Too many tenants have suffered from harassment while action on this was delayed. Please take this up, give it clout and enforce it. Protecting tenants is long overdue.