

## Communication from Public

**Name:** mm

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** It is my hope the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (TAHO) will be brought to the full City Council and approved. Pre-COVID19 pandemic, landlord harassment was a problem. Our city has long been experiencing a displacement crisis, featuring corporate, high-profit-seeking landlords pushing families out of rent-stabilized homes and communities. Some used the courts to evict tenants, but others saved themselves the time, money, and effort by engaging in tenant harassment and intimidation. This tactic is typically a cheaper and faster route to vacating a unit, and thus, being able to charge higher rents. Experts in "the space" find more tenants are displaced via informal harassment than the formal eviction process. The end result of tenant displacement is often homelessness: renters cannot find affordable housing once forced out, and this means couch-surfing, living in cars or in shelters, and also on the street. The pandemic is worsening these practices and accelerating our communities' descents into instability, if not brokenness, with innumerable members finding themselves experiencing homelessness. If we, ourselves, are not behind on our rent---yet---we all know dozens of people who are, and we know at least a subset of those people are being relentlessly harassed by their landlords to pay or leave, now. I appreciate the City Council's passage of protections to limit evictions during the pandemic, but must highlight the fact that these do not address the non-legal, frightening, maddening, intrusive, manipulative ways landlords force people from their homes. Tenant advocacy groups are reporting a spike in landlords who take the law into their own hands, including locking people out, extrajudicially. Renters have few protections and even fewer resources to push back on landlords who do such things. Government agencies currently contend they do not have sufficient legal authority to protect tenants from landlord harassment, leaving tenants completely exposed. Tenants who attempt to file complaints against landlords generally lose: no action is taken, or the LAPD side with the landlords (a default setting). It has been more than 3 years since tenants called upon the City to pass an Anti-Harassment Ordinance for tenants. The pandemic has brought this need into sharp relief. Please, before even one more family is pushed out of their home, move the Tenant

Anti-Harassment Ordinance out of the Housing Committee, to the full City Council, and on to approval. Thank you for your time and your consideration. x