

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Paola Leon

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2020 09:28 AM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** Tenants need protections against harassment, now more than ever. Councilmembers should pass the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance to support the hundreds of thousands of renters in the City of Los Angeles who are struggling to pay their rent due to COVID-19 and are being harassed by their landlords, in spite of existing tenant protections against eviction during the COVID-19 pandemic. Harassment is simply one of the tactics Landlords use to pressure tenants into vacating, resulting in "silent" evictions that drives families out of their homes, and at risk for homelessness. Landlords are often motivated to harass tenants in rent control buildings due to “vacancy de-control”, which allows landlords to raise the rent once the unit is empty. We must remove this incentive by enacting strong enforcement and penalties for any instances of harassment found to be caused by this profit motive.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Zerita Jones

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2020 11:23 AM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** Greetings, my name is Zerita Jones, I'm a member of ACCE, as tenant Chapter secretary and a member of the LA Tenants Union for the Baldwin Leimert Crenshaw Local, and I live in council district 10. I Highly support the tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance and that it should apply to all rental units in the City of LA. I'm really happy that the anti-harassment motion is out of the house committee, and now it's up to you our representatives to pass this, we can not let one more day go by without these protections for our citizens struggling, we've seen a heightened and sometime violent level of harassment inflicted by landlords, in some cases physical abuse and constant psychological abuse on families with children, we have seen illegal evictions everywhere in LA targeting our elderly and disabled folks at risk with no knowledge of their rights, this is why we need to protect our people now more than ever, I ask you my representative and president Nury Martinez to vote yes on the anti-harassment Ordinance. We need the support for the most vulnerable people in the communities and

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kaitlyn Quackenbush  
**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2020 11:02 AM  
**Council File No:** 14-0268-S13

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Kaitlyn Quackenbush. I am the Assistant Director of Policy and Research at Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE). City Council and Council President should 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. Do NOT weaken the remaining enforcement provisions. City Council should maintain the deterrent effect of the ordinance by keeping the fees at the levels proposed by HCID. Reducing the fees will mean more landlords will ignore the fees and continue to harass their tenants. The definition should remain broad because harassment can take many forms and it’s impossible to predict every kind of harassment possible. Harassment has always been a problem. Covid-19 makes it worse, but we need this now and for it be permanent going forward. It affects tens of thousands of renters every day in Los Angeles. Before eviction often comes harassment. Almost everyone who has been evicted has first harassed. Harassment is the practice of wearing down the human spirit that drives families with no other place to live out of their homes despite the often inevitable consequence of homelessness. Today we are seeing harassment manifest in the form of illegal lockouts which have spiked in recent months. The Tenant Anti-Harassment ordinance would prevent this type of escalation from happening in the first place. This is more important than ever because of the relationship between evictions and rising COVID19 infection rates. Protecting tenants from harassment is a matter of housing security and public health.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Elizabeth HernandezCastro

**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2020 11:43 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Elizabeth Hernandez Castro I live on District 9 I am a member of ACCE and I want to ask our councils to make a law to protect tenants against harassment from landlords. Many have been so cruel making their tenants' lives miserable. I as a tenant have suffered harassment by manager Curbin Pitts because they want to evict me just to rent for more expensive. And no one could do anything about it. I was scared for my children and I. I had a neighbor that before she left she had about 2 days before leaving her apartment and manager came knocking at her door telling her she had to leave right away knowing she had the right to stay 2 more days. I found her crying because she felt so much pressure. Landlord Charles Quarles never faces us, we had to ask to meet up with landlord and he left us hanging 3 times after a meeting was set. His secretary Karima would leave us waiting for long periods of time when we had to meet up at their office, and at times they would just tell us they canceled; without further explanation. He has no respect for his tenants. He even calls us animals. According to the manager he said landlord would not have a meeting with us because we were animals. Manager also calls us rats. Because we would gather together to defend ourselves. And let him know we were together. That we would not let him keep bothering any of the neighbors. But this did not stop until the building was sold. And now we have no idea who the owner is. All we know there is a manager in charge that is also mean to tenants, in my experience she has left me talking to myself when I ask her to provide a key to mailman, and when we need something fixed she is expecting us to do her job as in calling ourselves maintenance, we have no idea who maintenance is. And that is just part of my own experience. It has been so much going on I would never finish. Also I see and hear how there has been so many people that have been treated so bad during the pandemic, cases where they even got physical. This has to stop. We say no more. We tenants need protection. Landlords need to know we are not alone. We need our councils to act now and protect tenants.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rachael McDonald  
**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2020 09:52 AM  
**Council File No:** 14-0268-S13  
**Comments for Public Posting:** I wanted to write to express my adamant support and urge the council to vote yes. Tenant rights are vital for the public, especially now.