

Communication from Public

Name: Taylor Spaur

Date Submitted: 10/24/2020 04:16 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S13

Comments for Public Posting: The council must move the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance out of the Budget and Finance Committee and bring a vote with the full council. Your constituents demand a vote to ensure we can remain in our homes. I have been harassed by my landlord for rent repayment, even though I have months left to re-pay. I am not alone, there has been a 350% increase in complaints as recorded by the Eviction Defense Network. We must ensure the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (a) be passed while retaining the means of enforcement through the private right of action, and (b) that the ordinance pass with language flexible enough to allow HCID staffing to be added when the City hiring freeze is lifted.

Communication from Public

Name: Greg Spiegel

Date Submitted: 10/26/2020 01:08 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S13

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of Inner City Law Center, we ask the City Council's Budget and Finance 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 Budget and Finance and to the full City Council for consideration and approval. Thanks for your consideration. Greg Spiegel

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Guzman

Date Submitted: 10/26/2020 02:13 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S13

Comments for Public Posting: Hello - My name is Elizabeth Guzman, I have been a tenant advocate for a few years now and a tenant in Los Angeles. Since starting this work, prior to the pandemic, harassment has been the most common and pressing issue amongst the community member I worked with. The City Council must act now for the majority of working-class people in Los Angeles versus your personal interests as landlords. The Eviction Defense Network reported last week (on 10/23) that the number of harassment cases they have seen has increased over 350% in the last year. 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. Councilmember Krekorian & Budget & Finance Committee, we demand you immediately waive the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance so that it can go to the full City Council for final passage. Council President Nury Martinez we demand you 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.

Communication from Public

Name: edna monroy

Date Submitted: 10/26/2020 02:49 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S13

Comments for Public Posting: As part of the SAJE tenant action clinic and the organizing team, I work with tenants, many of the very low income, that deal with inhumane living conditions that include mold, infestations and leaking pipes that landlords neglect, displacement tactics and extreme harassment from their landlords. This harassment has only intensified with the pandemic as tenants are unable to pay their rent, and are being forced to take quick money to leave their homes. Although this harassment is nothing new, it is important to ensure tenants are protected by permanent law, and landlords stop harassing and abusing tenants during the pandemic and beyond. This harassment includes excessive notices, verbal, physical and psychological abuse with threats, which also include death threats, and surveillance cameras that disrupt the tenants, their safety and wellbeing. We call on the Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee, Councilmember Krekorian, to immediately waive the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance from his committee so that it can go quickly to the full City Council for final passage. We ask Council President Nury Martinez 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. 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. In fact, the Eviction Defense Network reported last week (on 10/23) that the number of harassment cases they have seen has increased over 350% in the last year. 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. While the current hiring freeze won't allow for there to be new staff added to HCID's team for enforcement we ask two things: (a) that the ordinance be passed while retaining the means of enforcement through the private right of action, and (b) that the ordinance pass with language flexible enough to allow HCID staffing to be added when the City hiring freeze is lifted. Tenants cannot keep waiting, the time to make the permanent anti-harassment ordinance in Los Angeles City is now.