



KEVIN DE LEÓN  
Councilmember, Fourteenth District

April 13, 2021

RE: Support for Councilmember Raman's suggested Amendments to the Draft Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (CF# 14-0268-S13)

Honorable Colleagues,

I write in support of the recommended language changes to the Draft Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (CF# 14-0268-S13) which have been proposed by Councilmember Raman in her letter to the public file dated April 9, 2021. I ask you to consider closely the benefits of such changes in supporting our City's most vulnerable renters.

The harassment of tenants in order to remove long term rent stabilized renters from desirable locations is a nefariously common practice in our City. In 2018, the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department received over 10,000 requests for enforcement against harassment. Such harassment includes threats, reduction in services and amenities, illegal rent increases, and more. If a landlord is willing to harass tenants they can employ many shameful tactics to make life extremely unpleasant. Making such actions illegal is a necessary first step.

The proposed changes will refine the language of this ordinance to mandate fiscal penalties that will deter landlords from engaging in harassment against their tenants. It is the goal that this revised language will increase private right of action where tenants will be able to hire legal representation. Currently, as there is minimal financial recovery in harassment cases, it is only our housing advocacy non-profits who do the bulk of the work in representing tenants in legal cases. As the demand for service by tenants greatly exceeds the available supply of non-profit legal aid services, many tenants lack representation.

I am in full support of making harassment of tenants illegal and costly. Stemming the tide of tenant harassment is a key tool to prevent future evictions and will have measurable benefits in reducing the supply of newly unhoused residents in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

KEVIN DE LEÓN,  
Councilmember, 14th District, Los Angeles City Council



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CC: David Michaelson Chief Assistant City Attorney  
Deborah Breithaupt, Deputy City Attorney  
Daniel Huynh, Assistant General Manager, Housing & Community Investment Dept.  
Joe Donlin, Deputy Director Economic Development Strategic Actions for a Just Economy  
Barbara J. Schultz, Director of Housing Justice, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles  
Larry Gross, Executive Director, Coalition for Economic Survival