

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(13) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 01/13/2020

Type of NC Board Action: For

#### Impact Information

Date: 01/13/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 18-0610

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: At its regularly scheduled public meeting on January 13, 2020, the NoHo Neighborhood Council voted 13-0-1 in favor of Council File 18-0610, as proposed by Councilmember Paul Koretz, which calls on the City of Los Angeles to create a Tenants Right to Counsel or Eviction Defense Program. The NoHo Neighborhood Council strongly supports funding legal representation for those facing unjust and unlawful evictions in order to prevent thousands more of our neighbors from experiencing homelessness.

## Community Impact Statement in support City Council File 18-0610

### Right to Counsel Ordinance

January 13, 2020

Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

At its regularly scheduled public meeting on January 13, 2020, the NoHo Neighborhood Council voted 13-0-1 in favor of Council File 18-0610, as proposed by Councilmember Paul Koretz, which calls on the City of Los Angeles to create a **Tenants Right to Counsel or Eviction Defense Program**.

The City of LA estimates that 30,000 eviction notices are filed each year<sup>1</sup>, yet 90% of tenants have no lawyer present during court proceedings<sup>2</sup> while 90% of landlords do<sup>3</sup>. The 2019 Homeless Count revealed that almost a quarter of unsheltered adults lost their housing in 2018 and are experiencing homelessness for the first time<sup>4</sup>, with hundreds of thousands more facing economic insecurity in a city where 60% of us are renters. The proposed ordinance calls on The City to address this disparity by funding the legal fees of tenants facing eviction who cannot afford their own representation.

There is precedent for a program of this scope, with proven success. New York City passed a law in 2017 to subsidize the legal fees of low-income tenants in housing courts and saw residential evictions drop by 11% in the areas benefited by the program, with households represented by lawyers about 34% more likely to stay housed<sup>5</sup>. San Francisco's recently approved 'Proposition F' mandates the city to fund tenant-legal defense services to any renter that requires them, regardless of income.

The NoHo Neighborhood Council strongly supports funding legal representation for those facing unjust and unlawful evictions in order to prevent thousands more of our neighbors from experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,

The NoHo Neighborhood Council



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-right-to-counsel-eviction-lawyers-20190423-story.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.tenantstogether.org/tt-report-california-evictions-are-fast-frequent-and-underreported>

<sup>3</sup> Russell Engler (2009), Connecting Self-Representation to Civil Gideon: What Existing Data Reveal About When Counsel is Most Needed. Fordham Urban Law Journal, Volume 37, Issue 1.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=3437-2019-greater-los-angeles-homeless-count-presentation.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.crainsnewyork.com/real-estate/evictions-down-areas-where-tenants-get-free-lawyers-analysis>