Communication from Public

Hello, my name is Gemma and I am a concerned LA resident and part of the Healthy LA coalition name demanding that the LA City Council to enact stronger protections for our community in response to COVID-19. Our families and vulnerable community members need immediate action to protect our health and our livelihoods. At today's Emergency Council meeting, I urge the council to support motions to: 1) Enact a Strong Moratorium on Evictions related to both nonpayment of rent and the presence of unauthorized occupants and pets, as well as all “no cause” evictions. People should not have to go to court to prove the impact of coronavirus on them to counter an eviction filing. Nobody should be evicted during an emergency that requires people to shelter in place. 2) Have the City should work with the State and financial institutions to continue suspending mortgage payments for homeowners and landlords, and forgive rent obligations for the duration of the crisis, including a recovery period after the state of emergency is lifted. 3) Implement an immediate freeze on all residential and commercial rent increases and prohibit landlords from charging late fees. 4) Immediately supply dumpsters, showers, hand washing stations, bathrooms, vermin abatement, soap, and water to every informal settlement in Los Angeles. 5) Protect workers’ livelihoods by enacting “just cause,” “right of recall,” and “worker retention” policies to stop unscrupulous employers from unjustly terminating workers during this crisis, and to ensure that when it is safe to return to work, they still have jobs to return to. 6) Prioritize workplace health and safety, including mandated paid time for and access to hand-washing and sanitizing, provision of protective gear, and appropriate training for those still at work, especially grocery workers, food service workers, and delivery drivers. 7) Provide 14 days of paid sick leave to all workers and prohibit retaliation against those who take it. Workers must feel safe to stay home through their illness for the public’s safety. Sincerely, Gemma Lurie
As a "mom and pop" small property owner, I want to raise concerns with regard to the temporary eviction moratorium and related ordinance below: Please keep in mind that deferred payment of rent has sweeping financial implications on not just the rental housing but also the small businesses that the landlords support including hardware stores, plumbers, electricians, roofers, gardeners, construction, etc. Without rent revenue, "mom and pop" rental housing providers will have no other option but to significantly reduce all non-essential building services and will have difficulty supporting their family, paying property taxes, mortgages and other financial obligations. It is important to emphasize that eviction moratoriums will not replace a renter’s lost wages or cover the cost of medial prescriptions and related essentials. The most direct and impactful way to assist residents and businesses alike is through the establishment of emergency assistance fund to provide essential financial support to all impacted residents and businesses struggling during these uncertain and turbulent times. The City Council need to provide mortgage relief for rental property owners who are negatively impacted due to the loss of rent revenue, and to temporarily suspend all City fees for businesses and suspend or institute a grace period for payments of City’s trash and sewage for those who are impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. The City Council need to recognize that my family 100% depends on the rental income for our daily expenses and to maintain the building for their renters. As such the City Council need to ensure that rental housing providers be permitted to request and accept partial rental payments from renters without modification of lease agreements or limitation on their ability to later seek payment of unpaid rent. The proposed urgency ordinance does not establish specific written notification requirements or that renters provide supporting documentation reflective of their loss of income and inability to pay rent. The City Council must require renters to provide written notice prior to rent due dates, or establish a notice period similar to the Los Angeles County’s Emergency Order, which specifies that a renter must provide written notice within seven (7) days after the date that rent is due, absent extenuating circumstances. By having renters provide rental housing providers with written notification and related supporting documentation of
their inability to pay rent as soon as the circumstances set forth in the ordinance arise, rental housing providers and renters can avoid unnecessary court filings, as well as enabling owners to make financial adjustments, if and where possible. We need reasonable, verifiable, supporting documentation in minimizing the likelihood of fraud and disputes related to the basis for the non-payment of rent. Examples of supporting documentation could be a letter from an employer or medical doctor, pay stubs or bank statements depending on the individual’s circumstances.
Communication from Public

Name: Scarlett De Leon
Date Submitted: 03/17/2020 10:18 AM
Council File No: 20-0147

Comments for Public Posting: “I am with Alliance for Community Transit- Los Angeles and I urge City Council to strengthen the eviction moratorium to protect renters for longer and not require proof that failure to pay is related to coronavirus, which may be impossible to obtain. All eviction notices served during this state of emergency should be void. Council must immediately end 56.11 enforcement to stop criminalization, sweeps and confiscation of properties of houseless Angelenos and instead mobilize public health response, including: ID city buildings and safe parking areas for houseless people and provide sanitation Provide handwashing stations and porta-potties at all encampments Open up park and recreation facilities and public libraries for houseless people to access restrooms and handwashing Lastly, the Council must enact a rent freeze covering all rental apartments in the City and stop commercial evictions of small businesses. It is critical that our city take action to protect renters and those who are homeless during a global pandemic. Thank you”
Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

My name is Beth Kent from the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We agree that it is critical that our city take action to protect renters and those who are homeless during a global pandemic. And, we believe that these proposals need to be much stronger to ensure the City's response is comprehensive and as strong as possible:

1. Strengthen the eviction moratorium announced last night to: (1) protect renters for longer; (2) not require renters to prove Covid-19 connection as this may be difficult to prove in many cases; and (3) prohibit filing eviction cases, posting eviction notices, or other actions that would require a tenant to appear in court and put their health at risk.

2. Use motels/hotels as emergency housing for the houseless

3. End 56.11 enforcement to stop criminalization, sweeps and confiscation of properties of houseless Angelenos and instead mobilize public health response, including:
   
   a) ID city buildings and safe parking areas for houseless people and provide sanitation
   
   b) Provide handwashing stations and porta-potties at all encampments
   
   c) Open up park and recreation facilities and public libraries for houseless people to access restrooms and handwashing

4. Place a moratorium on evictions for small businesses under commercial leases.

5. Enact a rent freeze on all rental apartments in the City of LA

Also, please see the Op-Ed that our Healthy LA Coalition partners published yesterday: http://healthyla.org/

Thank you for all you do and for your prompt action to protect all Angelenos in these times.
Communication from Public

Name: Mariana
Date Submitted: 03/27/2020 11:30 AM
Council File No: 20-0147
Comments for Public Posting: Please find letter attached.
March 27, 2020

Los Angeles City Council
John Ferraro Council Chamber
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support Healthy LA Policy Platform – Urgent COVID-19 Response

Dear Council President Martinez,

We write to respectfully ask for your support for the policy platform put forward by the Healthy LA coalition. The coalition is comprised of 200+ advocacy organizations, worker centers, labor unions, service providers, religious congregations, community groups, affordable housing developers, public interest lawyers, public health and safety organizations, and many more uniting across lines of race, class, and geography to propose concrete solutions to the many hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Founded in 1986, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), is a California leader, with national presence, who serves the immigrant community through civic engagement, community education, organizing, advocacy, and the provision of legal immigration services. Our mission is to achieve a just society fully inclusive of all.

As COVID-19 triggers a national state of emergency, and a statewide call to stay home and stay sheltered, many Angelenos are forced to put their health on the line simply to keep a roof over their heads. Our city councilmembers have shown great leadership in their response to this crisis so far. In this precarious time, it’s crucial that their next actions be bold, decisive, and for the good of our most vulnerable friends and neighbors.

Most importantly, it is of crucial importance to ensure that any relief coming from the Council is inclusive of all regardless of immigration status. Despite our advocacy at the Federal level, unfortunately, the economic relief that will be coming down from the Federal Government will not be including undocumented immigrants. We are extremely disappointed, disheartened, and extremely concerned with what is to come for the
undocumented immigrant community throughout the country, state, and specifically the City of Los Angeles.

On our end, we continue our advocacy at the state level and with the Mayor's office to ensure the gap the federal government has left is filled. However, it is important to note that the City of Los Angeles accounts for the highest concentration of undocumented immigrants, many who work in the service industry and at the moment find themselves unemployed without the ability to apply for unemployment due to their legal status. This is a crucial step for undocumented families, as many form a part of mixed-status families, including US Citizen children, who despite facing the threat of deportation every single day, continue to serve and be the backbone for the City of Los Angeles.

In times like today the undocumented community, unfortunately, will not have any economic relief afforded to others. They are some of the most vulnerable and as a City, we can and must take care of those who will fall through the cracks yet keep our city standing on a day to day basis.

Thank you for your consideration should you have any questions please contact Mariana Magaña Gamero at mmagana@chirla.org.

Respectfully,

________________
Joseph Villela
Director of Policy

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Mariana Magaña Gamero
Policy Advocate

CC: Gilbert Cedillo, District 1
Paul Krekorian, District 2
Bob Blumenfield, District 3
David Ryu, District 4
Paul Koretz, District 5
Monica Rodriguez, District 7
Marqueece Harris-Dawson, District 8
Curren D. Price, Jr., District 9
Herb Wesson, District 10
Mike Bonin, District 11
Mitchell Englander, District 12
Mitch O’Farrell, District 13
Jose Huizar, District 14
Joe Buscaino, District 15
Councilmembers, we direly need YOU to lead right now in enacting a 100% rent and mortgage moratorium in Los Angeles for the duration of this crisis and the recovery period. - 100% Rent and Mortgage moratorium for all collection in the city of LA - FORGIVENESS of rent and mortgages accrued during this time, and a MORATORIUM on utility bill collection and shutoffs - This is the biggest economic and health care crisis Los Angeles has faced in centuries and our city council must lead where our federal and state governments have not! You all have the opportunity to make Los Angeles either a model for resilience and solidarity, or a model for absolute disaster. But you don't have time to delay and dither on which side of that you wish to see as the outcome. You have to choose now and the choice could not be clearer. Please councilmembers, act to make *us* whole while our federal government is working overtime to make banks and mega corporations whole instead of us. Please act now."