

MOTION

In 2020, the City Council implemented a groundbreaking Eviction Defense Program (20-1084) as a response to increased housing insecurity due to the housing crisis and COVID-19 pandemic. Funded by the CARES Act, the Eviction Defense Program included case management services, financial counseling, and homelessness prevention resources to families.

In the fiscal years following the initial launch of the Eviction Defense Program, the City has put together funding to sustain the Program over the last two years from a variety of sources, including federal dollars. These funds were explicitly granted to assist community-based tenant outreach, the Right to Counsel, and eviction defense services for tenants.

In June 2022, the City Council voted to send the United to House LA measure to the ballot, so that Angelenos have the opportunity to cast their vote on the measure. The United to House LA ballot measure aims to create a tax on the ultra-wealthy in order to fund the development of new affordable housing units and reduce homelessness in the City. If passed, the United to House measure would provide extensive and ongoing financing to the Eviction Defense Program.

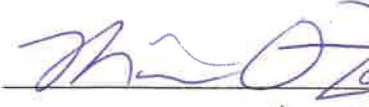

The significant funding provided by United to House LA for eviction defense will be instrumental to the protection of renters across the City. The City needs to be prepared for the necessary next steps to make the Eviction Defense Program permanent if the United to House LA measure passes.

Since 2020, the Council has prioritized policies that would prevent mass evictions not only during times of emergency, but also on a permanent basis. In anticipation of the vote on the United to House LA ballot measure, it is incumbent upon the City Council to analyze options for implementing a permanent eviction defense program with a sufficient stream of funding.

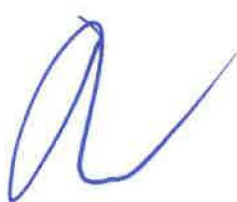
**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD), with assistance from all relevant departments, to report back on steps to codify and potentially expand the Eviction Defense Program; the report back should include input from experts in this field, community-based organizations, and advocacy groups.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council instruct LAHD to report back on what the expansion of the Eviction Defense Program would look like with the funding provided by United to House LA ballot measure, should it pass.

PRESENTED BY:   
NURY MARTINEZ  
Councilwoman, 6th District

SECONDED BY:   


SEP 13 2022



ORIGINAL