

MOTION

On March 2nd, 2021, Council adopted CF 21-0042 which approved the allocation of \$235 million in federal and state funds to cover rent payments for Angelenos affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications were due on April 30th and the city received a total of over 69,000 tenant applications and over 45,000 landlord applications requesting a total amount exceeding \$530 million in rental assistance. Since the application period closed, the city has paid out only \$35 million, an average of \$2.5 million dollars per week. At the current pace, it will take one and a half years to disburse all of the \$235 million, clearly an unacceptable pace by any standard.

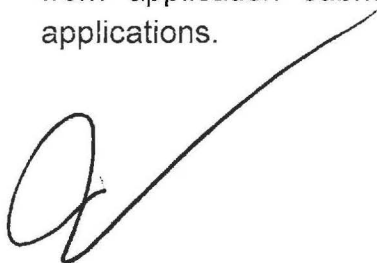
While the city's eviction moratorium will remain in place until one year after the COVID-19 emergency order is lifted, struggling Angelenos are extremely worried about being able to pay their rent. The slow pace of payouts means that the vast majority of tenants remain behind on their rent and cannot get their heads above water. Similarly, delayed payouts are challenging small landlords, in particular, in meeting their financial obligations.

Furthermore, many Angelenos did not submit applications for their unpaid rent due to the short amount of time the application period was open and the lack of technical capability among those in need, leaving many wondering how they will pay thousands of dollars in rent in a timely manner.

In order to ensure that Angelenos and the City rebound from the pandemic as quickly as possible, the city needs to take action to speed up the disbursement of funds and develop a Waiting List for individuals who did not apply beforehand and are in need of rental assistance.

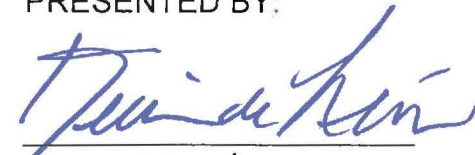
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Housing Department to:


- Report within 10 days on the resources needed to process and pay all outstanding Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) applications by Oct 1, 2021.
- Submit weekly reports to the City Council on the status of the ERAP program including, but not limited to, the following information by Council District: applications processed, applications paid, outstanding applications, average time from application submittal to payment, and current timeline to process all applications.




- Report on re-opening the application period in order to develop a Wait List to allow all Angelenos below 80% AMI to become eligible for rental assistance pending the availability of state and federal funding.
- Develop a robust, multi-lingual outreach campaign to directly engage Angelenos who did not submit applications in April and who do not have easy access to a digital device or face other barriers to completing an application.
- Report within 10 days on the funding allocated to the EvictionDefense Program, when the program will be fully operational, and how the public will be able to know about and access the program.

PRESENTED BY:


KEVIN DE LEÓN
Councilmember, 14th District


GILBERT A. CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

AUG 06 2021

ORIGINAL