

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.

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Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: East Hollywood Neighborhood Council (EHNC)

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 2/22/2021

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 02/23/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-0062

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The East Hollywood Neighborhood Council supports this Motion with recommendations. Nearly a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of thousands of Angelenos are behind on rent. Almost 70% of all low-income households in Los Angeles County have lost income since March 2020 due to the pandemic. An estimated 1 in 3 Angelenos has been infected with COVID-19, and low-income households and communities of color are disproportionately impacted, experiencing higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and death and lower access to healthcare, testing, and vaccines. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that beyond the housing instability and vulnerability that tenants experienced before COVID-19, the pandemic has increased housing vulnerability exponentially due to renters' massive loss of income. Patchwork emergency tenant protections (which are not eviction moratoria) have been instituted by the State, the County and the City of Los Angeles, but these tenant protection ordinances required that all past due rent would still be owed at the end of the emergency. Amidst COVID-19, the City of Los Angeles also instituted Emergency Rental Relief programs which were limited in scope and funding, required that tenants submit lengthy applications, and provided rental subsidies directly to the landlord who were not required to accept it. Tenants who applied were entered into a lottery and, if chosen, the subsidy would help pay only a small portion of back rent to prevent the tenant from being evicted. In many cases landlords rejected the subsidies, even though tenants desperately needed rent relief and were left with thousands of dollars of rent debt. New State Bill SB 91 extends AB 3088 tenant protections to June 30, 2021 and provides a renters' relief program as a temporary stop-gap measure. Landlords may opt out of the 80% Federal subsidy if they forgive the 20% remaining rent owed, again placing tenants in an untenable situation of owing thousands of dollars of rent debt.



The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

2/22/21

Re: Council File: 21-0062: Renters Relief Registry / Ranking System / Transparent / Equitable / Housing Assistance

Position: Support with recommendations

Dear Councilmembers,

The East Hollywood Neighborhood Council supports this [Motion](#) with recommendations.

Nearly a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of thousands of Angelenos are behind on rent. [Almost 70%](#) of all low-income households in Los Angeles County have lost income since March 2020 due to the pandemic. An estimated [1 in 3 Angelenos](#) has been infected with COVID-19, and low-income households and communities of color are [disproportionately impacted](#), experiencing higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and death and lower access to healthcare, testing, and vaccines. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that beyond the housing instability and vulnerability that tenants experienced before COVID-19, the pandemic has increased housing vulnerability exponentially due to renters' massive loss of income. Patchwork emergency tenant protections (which are not eviction moratoria) have been instituted by the State, the County and the City of Los Angeles, but these tenant protection ordinances required that all past due rent would still be owed at the end of the emergency.

Amidst COVID-19, the City of Los Angeles also instituted Emergency Rental Relief programs which were limited in scope and funding, required that tenants submit lengthy applications, and provided rental subsidies directly to the landlord who were not

required to accept it. Tenants who applied were entered into a lottery and, if chosen, the subsidy would help pay only a small portion of back rent to prevent the tenant from being evicted. In many cases landlords rejected the subsidies, even though tenants desperately needed rent relief and were left with thousands of dollars of rent debt. New State Bill SB 91 extends AB 3088 tenant protections to June 30, 2021 and provides a renters' relief program as a temporary stop-gap measure. Landlords may opt out of the 80% Federal subsidy if they forgive the 20% remaining rent owed, again placing tenants in an untenable situation of owing thousands of dollars of rent debt.

Compared with the temporary rent relief and patchwork eviction protection ordinances made available to tenants previously, this Motion requests that a **permanent, transparent and equitable** rental relief registry program be put in place which prioritizes funds to residents based on tiered-level criteria such as COVID-19 loss of income, institutional poverty, needs of essential workers, and families with children living below the poverty line to ensure funding is always directed to the most vulnerable residents, and to help pay back rent to avoid eviction. This permanent rental relief registry will help tenants stay in their homes and prevent homelessness.

This Motion requests that the Housing and Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) report back on the creation of a Permanent Renters Relief Registry.

The East Hollywood Neighborhood Council recommends that:

- A permanent rent relief registry needs to make a provision that landlords cannot decline any rent relief subsidy if it is being paid to the landlord to avoid tenant eviction, and if landlord declines, the subsidy should be paid directly to the tenant and not impact eligibility for any other state or local subsidy the tenant currently receives or may receive;
- A permanent rent relief registry needs to work in tandem with a Right to Counsel program providing tenants with legal representation so that tenants may navigate the State and City tenant protection measures to prevent eviction;
- A permanent rent relief registry needs to fill in the gaps of the State bill SB 91 to provide rent debt relief to tenants due to COVID-19 loss of income by forgiving rent debt, and should be met with a comprehensive relief program to support the small landlords and nonprofit affordable housing providers with the greatest need;
- A permanent rent relief registry doesn't sacrifice funds from existing programs that the city provides for low income or unhoused individuals/families who need housing or food assistance;

Sincerely,

Ninoska Suarez

East Hollywood Neighborhood Council

CC:

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

Hon. Nury Martinez City Council President
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