

Communication from Public

Name: Judy Branfman

Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 10:24 AM

Council File No: 14-0268-S18

Comments for Public Posting: I am a renter, and I urge all City Councilmembers to vote yes on the RTC ordinance today. I strongly support the codified Right to Counsel ordinance as drafted. Right to Counsel in other cities across the nation has proven to save the City money, prevent homelessness, and reduce the number of evictions. I have seen how many friends and neighbors have struggled through evictions that shouldn't have happened - and I think if owners knew that there is a Right To Counsel there would be fewer attempts to evict tenants. Thanks for your vote in support of this codified Right to Counsel ordinance as drafted.

Communication from Public

Name: Karen

Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 10:27 AM

Council File No: 14-0268-S18

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Karen . I am discussing Items #8 and giving general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in CD9. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am in support of the ordinance as drafted. Right to Counsel in other cities across the nation has proven to save the City money, prevent homelessness, and reduce the number of evictions. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue. It's important that you give a chance for working families to stay housed and protected. Housing is a human right, do what's right and give LA tenants the chance to fight to stay housed with legal representation.

Communication from Public

Name: Nicholas Lampros
Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 11:44 AM
Council File No: 14-0268-S18

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Nicholas Lampros and I am an attorney with Bet Tzedek Legal Services. I spent three and a half years defending tenants in unlawful detainer proceedings as part of the Stay Housed LA coalition. I strongly support codifying Right to Counsel and support passing the ordinance as drafted. In my time working with tenants, I saw firsthand the massive difference having an attorney can make in eviction proceedings. Today, the overwhelming majority of landlords filings evictions have legal representation, while the majority of tenants fighting for their housing do not. This creates a huge imbalance in power, which is all too often what decides the case, instead of the facts and the law. Evictions are fast paced and incredibly traumatic situations to navigate. No one should have to fight for their housing on their own. I'd like to share one example. A few years ago, I represented a tenant in successfully defeating an illegal eviction. Less than a year later, her landlord tried to evict her a second time, and this time her landlord quickly won a default judgment because she did not file an answer in time—even though the basis of this eviction was ALSO illegal. The only difference was that in the second case, she was not able to find a lawyer in time. Fortunately, she did eventually contact our office and we were able to assist her in working the situation out, but many tenants are not so lucky. Having a lawyer at your side is all too often the difference between keeping your home, and becoming homeless. Right to Counsel in cities across the nation has proven to save the city money, prevent homelessness, and reduce evictions. That is why I want to thank Councilmember Raman for her leadership on this critical issue, and urge all councilmembers to vote yes on the Right to Counsel ordinance.

Communication from Public

Name: Angelo Antonio
Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 01:43 PM
Council File No: 14-0268-S18

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Angelo Antonio. I am discussing Items #8 and giving general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in CD6. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am in support of the ordinance as drafted. Right to Counsel in other cities across the nation has proven to save the City money, prevent homelessness, and reduce the number of evictions. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue.

Communication from Public

Name: Barbara J. Schultz
Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 01:52 PM
Council File No: 14-0268-S18
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter in support of the Right to Counsel Ordinance.



Ron Olson Justice Center
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Los Angeles, CA 90017
323-801-7991 Phone
323-801-7945 fax
www.lafla.org

Los Angeles City Council

Via <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment/?cfnumber=14-0268-S18>

Re: Right to Counsel Ordinance, file #14-0268-S18

Councill Members:

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) urges Council to vote in favor of the Right to Counsel Ordinance. Over two years have passed since the motion to draft this ordinance (seven years since the original exploratory motion) and it is high time the City of Los Angeles join the 18 cities, 2 counties and 5 states that have already passed a tenants' right to counsel around the nation.

LAFLA has fought to achieve equal justice for people living in poverty across Greater Los Angeles for over 95 years. LAFLA has been doing housing work for its entire history. However, in the early 1980's, the recession spurred a huge surge in evictions. LAFLA decided to create a specialized unit with innovative methods to handle a large number of eviction cases, and in 1983, founded the Eviction Defense Center at LAFLA which was the first high volume legal aid eviction defense practice in the nation. LAFLA has continued its leadership role in eviction defense, and in 2020 became the lead contractor for Stay Housed LA. LAFLA went from approximately six eviction defense attorneys in 2019 to over 30 attorneys and fellows representing tenants today.

Stay Housed LA consists of 12 legal service providers and 16 community-based organizations and provides outreach, education, tenant navigation, legal representation, and rental assistance to tenants in the City and County of Los Angeles. Stay Housed LA stands ready to implement this ordinance by phasing in a full right to counsel for all eligible city tenants facing eviction.

We thank you for your support and look forward to working with Council, LAHD, and the ULA Citizen's Oversight Committee to achieve a successful Right to Counsel in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Schultz
Director of Housing Justice

Other Office Locations:

East Los Angeles Office, 5301 Whittier Blvd., 4th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90022; 213-640-3883
Long Beach Office, 601 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802; 562-435-3501
Santa Monica Office, 1640 5th St., Suite 124, Santa Monica, CA 90401; 310-899-6200
South Los Angeles Office, 7000 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90003; 213-640-3950

Communication from Public

Name: Anna Ferrarie

Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 02:09 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S18

Comments for Public Posting: I am a renter, and I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I support the ordinance as drafted. Right to Counsel in other cities across the nation has proven to save the city money, prevent homelessness, and reduce the number of evictions. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue.

Communication from Public

Name: Shane Henson

Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 02:46 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S18

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Shane Henson, and I am a public policy advocate with Inner City Law Center. Inner City Law Center strongly supports the codified Right to Counsel ordinance as drafted. Right to Counsel in other cities across the nation has proven to save the cities money, prevent homelessness, and reduce the number of evictions. We believe Los Angeles will also greatly benefit from Right to Counsel. We also want to thank Councilmember Raman for her leadership on this critical issue.

Communication from Public

Name: Eliza Analco

Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 03:04 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S18

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Eliza and I am discussing Items #8 and giving general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in Los Angeles County. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am in support of the ordinance as drafted. Right to Counsel in other cities across the nation has proven to save the City money, prevent homelessness, and reduce the number of evictions. I also want to thank Council member Raman for your leadership on this critical issue.

Communication from Public

Name: Chelsea Rosales
Date Submitted: 03/19/2025 03:12 PM
Council File No: 14-0268-S18

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Chelsea I am discussing Items #8 and giving general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in District 14. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am in support of the ordinance as drafted. Right to Counsel in other cities across the nation has proven to save the City money, prevent homelessness, and reduce the number of evictions. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue. It is necessary that tenants have legal representation in an eviction case because having someone to support you as a tenant helps you better understand your rights. Many renters are not aware of the protections that are afforded to them under Los Angeles laws. Attorneys can clarify proper notices and prohibitions against retaliatory evictions. Having legal representation can also ensure that landlord are being held accountable and aren't taking advantage of their tenants. I urge all City Councilmembers to vote yes on the RTC ordinance today. Thank you!