

Communication from Public

Name: Christina Boyar
Date Submitted: 03/31/2025 03:51 PM
Council File No: 14-0268-S18
Comments for Public Posting: My name is Christina Boyar, an attorney at Public Counsel and a member of Keep LA Housed, commenting in support of a codified Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in CD5. 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. I urge all City Councilmembers to vote yes on the RTC ordinance today. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Nicholas Lampros

Date Submitted: 03/31/2025 06:13 PM

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. On behalf of Bet Tzedek, I urge the Council to vote in favor of Right to Counsel. 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 have seen 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. Six months 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 due to a lack of capacity among tenant defense lawyers. Fortunately, she did eventually connect with 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: Angela Birdsong

Date Submitted: 03/31/2025 10:34 PM

Council File No: 14-0268-S18

Comments for Public Posting: Hello my name is Angela Birdsong. I am discussing Items #38 and #45 and giving general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a housing rights organizer for Los Angeles Community Action Network better known as LA CAN. I work in Council District 14, and I reside in the city of Inglewood, a close neighbor of the city of Los Angeles, and I am a landlord in Hermosa Beach. 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. Anyone who takes the housing crisis seriously, which is a crisis of housing affordability, housing availability, and poverty, must speak and act from a moral place, not a politically convenient place, to keep people in their homes, to prioritize permanent housing, and to stop using criminalization to hide poverty, erase people and cause a city wide genocide. I am a witness to how having a legal housing advocate guide and advise tenants through the murky waters of the eviction process is extremely necessary. I urge all City Councilmembers to vote yes on the RTC ordinance today. Regarding Agenda Item #38, paying millions of dollars to Weingart and Union Rescue Mission for *congregate* shelter beds as part of "Inside Safe." No where else in the city is this "hotel" program participants are expected to sleep in congregate shelter beds. But in Skid Row, the Mayor apparently has a different orientation. And the cost is still over \$40k per year per congregate bed. Something is wrong with this and it needs to be addressed and corrected. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Suzanne Marie Fava
Date Submitted: 03/31/2025 11:29 PM
Council File No: 14-0268-S18

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Suzanne Fava and I am with L.A. CAN. I am discussing Items #45, #38 and giving general public comment in support of a codified Right to Counsel. I am a renter and live in Council District 4. 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. This is my story: Most recent, had I had legal representation when approved for a 2 bedroom apartment from Section 8, I would have been in one over a year ago at the apartment I just left. I was told that the owner said they were at the capacity for anyone with Section 8 and they were not allowing any transfers of apartments or new applications from anyone with Section 8. Then after the fires I was told they were holding the two bedroom apartments for short-term rentals. The day I was leaving I was asked if I still wanted a two bedroom when I had already put down a security deposit and the application fee and a new residence. All of this headache could have been avoided had legal counsel been afforded to me. In another instance, had I had legal representation when I received the notice of non-renewal of my lease, my landlord would not have been able to force me to vacate after four years of serving as an unpaid apartment manager. With proper legal counsel, she would not have been able to retain my security deposit or discard my belongings without prior notice. The entire move was rushed because she claimed repairs—expected to take over 30 days—needed to begin immediately. Additionally, a new tenant was moved into the apartment on the fifth day after I vacated. At the time, I was still grieving the loss of my mother, who had died two weeks prior, and the situation coincided with New Year's Eve. Moreover, I was charged rent during a holiday weekend when no rent was due, as I had vacated by the next business day. In sum, the landlord also kept my entire security deposit. In conclusion, if I had legal council at the time I wouldn't find it futile seeking compensation for my personal belongings, the security deposit, and any funds that were improperly charged.