

Communication from Public

Name: Diana Cruz

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Council File No: 14-0268

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Diana Cruz and I am a paralegal with the Housing Equality & Advocacy Resource Team (HEART LA). Several of our clients are facing severe harassment from their landlords in an effort to get them to "self-evict" during the pandemic. We urge you to please not adopt amendments that would provide landlords or their agents with a right to cure. As an eviction prevention and defense organization, HEART LA has seen too many instances of tenant harassment. One of our clients has had their mailbox taken away after repeated requests for fumigation. Agents for the landlord constantly verbally abuse them and make physical threats. We another client who is a disabled senior living in inhabitable conditions as the landlord refuses to make outstanding reparations and conducts illegal utility shutoffs. We have also had clients who continue to receive 3-Day Notices for inability to pay rent and unauthorized tenants and pets due to the COVID-19 despite the existing moratorium. This continual intimidation and harassment lead to emotional injury which is not curable and always at the tenant's expense. I support the anti-harassment tenant ordinance that applies to all rental units in the City of Los Angeles along with Councilmember Nithya Raman's amendments. Please do right by the most vulnerable members of your community and support this ordinance too.