

Communication from Public

Name: Ben Newman

Date Submitted: 06/12/2020 07:57 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I just wanted to write and show my support for the vacancy tax, I think it's a great idea and I hope it passes.

Communication from Public

Name: Jane Demian

Date Submitted: 06/13/2020 07:24 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I have read the City agency reports, support the Vacancy tax and support placing the issue on the November 2020 ballot. In order to place the Vacancy Tax aka Empty Homes Penalty on the November ballot, the City Council would have to pass an Ordinance by June 17th and provide election materials by July 1st. Due to the City's changing priorities around the COVID-19 crisis, the City Council may not meet those deadlines. Nevertheless, the City should try to meet these deadlines based on the large increase in individuals experiencing homelessness from the 2020 Homeless Count. A Vacancy Tax would do two things: it would create motivation for property owners to rent out their rental units that are otherwise kept vacant for various reasons, and for those property owners who do not rent out their units, would collect a tax that could be used to generate revenue to provide affordable housing and tenant services to those low income individuals who are presently without a home. As everyone knows rents have been skyrocketing, and property owners are motivated to evict tenants in order to raise rent. Multiple emergency tenant protections have been put in place due to the COVID-19 crisis so that tenants are not evicted during the crisis, but once the emergency is lifted plus 90 days, thousands of tenants will be evicted from their homes due to loss of income and non-payment or partial payment of rent. I am hoping those evictions do not occur, but every eviction will spur the property owner to increase in rents leaving fewer and fewer units available at reasonable prices for tenants to rent. A Vacancy tax would encourage property owners to release units into the rental market increasing supply and hopefully will lower rents. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Kelsey Stefanson

Date Submitted: 06/13/2020 08:02 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to voice support for a vacancy tax in Los Angeles. The crisis of homelessness is only growing in our city and this would be a concrete tool to employ to begin battling the problem.