

Communication from Public

Name: Luke Hallam

Date Submitted: 06/17/2020 01:47 PM

Council File No: 20-0401-S1

Comments for Public Posting: The COVID-19 Emergency Renters Relief Program does not do enough. It looks likely that landlords will receive relief while tenants are left struggling with debt to be evicted in later months. We need city money to be spent on providing secure housing for Angelenos and on substantially decreasing the number of people forced into houselessness due to COVID-19. These people have all taken heroic acts to keep Los Angeles safe from the virus and deserve to be protected in the years that follow. If this motion is to be passed, it should only be passed with restrictions so that it only helps renters in need and not corporate landlords.

Communication from Public

Name: Jane Demian

Date Submitted: 06/17/2020 01:11 PM

Council File No: 20-0401-S1

Comments for Public Posting: The Emergency Renters Relief Program, as written, is inadequate to protect renters. It provides rental subsidies directly to the landlord. The tenant is required to apply for the program submitting documentation that loss of income and inability to pay rent is a result of COVID-19. After submitting the application, a lottery will choose a certain number of "winners" -- that is, landlords who will receive the subsidy. If the subsidy is \$1000, but the tenants' rent is \$2000, the tenant still owes the landlord \$1000. If the tenant is unable to pay back rent within 12 months after the emergency is lifted, the tenant will be evicted. This Emergency Renters Relief program does not provide any tenant protections if tenants are unable to pay the balance of rent owed. As has been stated in the Motion, low income tenants of color have been the hardest hit financially by the pandemic due to job loss and health challenges. Putting the burden on tenants to apply for a landlord subsidy without protecting tenants from eviction only perpetuates the broken housing system where more and more tenants are "falling" into homelessness. LA City has seen an increase of 14% of unhoused people pre-COVID, the majority have become unhoused for the first time. Don't allow more people to become unhoused due to short-sighted policies like the Emergency Renters Relief Program, as written Amend and strengthen this policy by using the money to provide affordable housing, and protect the housing that exists for low income renters.

Communication from Public

Name: Abigail Coleman

Date Submitted: 06/17/2020 01:27 PM

Council File No: 20-0401-S1

Comments for Public Posting: For item 1 on today's CARES Act Committee agenda, it is crucial that the program avoid bailing out Blackstone and other corporate landlords. Rent relief subsidies should be tied to the conditions recommended by the Right to Counsel coalition.

Communication from Public

Name: Elena Popp

Date Submitted: 06/17/2020 02:49 PM

Council File No: 20-0401-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Rental assistance is little more than pandering to voters. Useless bread and circus that will do nothing more than perpetuate the existing housing crisis by lining the pockets of the very people who cause that crisis. If you were put those funds into Right to Counsel or into the item 3 budget you would do much better. Alas I am assured there is no way to persuade you not to waste public funds. As such, a successful rental assistance program must ensure that the subsidies actually achieve positive outcomes for tenants, not just landlords. To do so, the subsidies should prevent displacement by keeping families in their homes. To accomplish this: Increase the cap on payments and allow more flexibility - for those that have lost their jobs, \$2,000 won't go far in preventing displacement where the median monthly rent for a 2-bedroom apartment is over \$2,000. Increase cap to \$5,000 and don't limit the number of months. Subsidies must go to pay for months not already protected by City's prohibition on evictions for failure to pay rent during the State of Emergency. As soon as these protections end, renters will be subject to eviction for failure to pay. The subsidy should pay for months that aren't protected from eviction for failure to pay rent. As a condition of receiving the subsidy, landlord must certify that For 12 months after receipt of subsidy, landlord won't raise rent For 12 months after receipt of subsidy, landlord won't file eviction or otherwise displace tenant unless for criminal violence on the premises Landlord will forgive unpaid rent for the months covered by the State of Emergency Partner rental assistance with eviction prevention strategies like renter education and outreach, and where landlords seek to evict, right to legal counsel in evictions. Amply-funded eviction prevention and eviction defense measure would keep tens of thousands in their homes and save the City money on homeless shelter and services. Ensure that landlords that receive the funding are not bad actors and actually need the funding Require landlord to certify, under penalty of perjury and subject to criminal misdemeanor and fine, that the landlord's unpaid rent for the State of Emergency exceeds the total public benefits received, including the City subsidy, and that landlord will credit unpaid rent for all subsidies received. Further limit landlords who are eligible Do not fund landlords that have an unresolved code enforcement complaint Exclude landlords that own more than ten units

Exclude units owned by LLCs or corporations

Communication from Public

Name: Chase Engelhardt

Date Submitted: 06/17/2020 03:36 PM

Council File No: 20-0401-S1

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Chase Engelhardt and as a member of Climate Resolve, I support using CARES Act funds to create permanently affordable housing for the people in LA who need it the most, having residents in low-income communities of color participate in the creation of the economic recovery and neighborhood investment plan, and putting safeguards on the Renter Relief program to ensure it helps regular Angelenos, not Wall Street landlords. It is crucial that the program avoid bailing out Blackstone and other corporate landlords. Rent relief subsidies should be tied to the conditions recommended by the Right to Counsel coalition. Thank you.