

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I am a renter in council district 11. I am in favor of nonpayment protections, relocation assistance, and just cause because without them tens of thousands of tenants will be on the edge of homelessness. The pandemic has ravaged low-income renters on multiple fronts, from loss of reliable income to deaths of family members to the shocks of economic inflation and the skyrocketing cost of living. During the worst of the pandemic while I was unemployed, there were weeks I had to choose between skipping meals and being able to afford my rent, and I don't have dependents relying on me for income. There are people in my district and throughout the city who will never be able to fully pay back their rent debts from the years of the pandemic they suffered through, and unless we want homelessness to dramatically increase in the coming year, we must intervene to put as many stop-gaps as possible in place to prevent evictions. If permanent protections cannot be implemented in time, Council President Krekorian and all Council Members should remove the amendment passed in December to end the emergency order on 1/31, continue the emergency order, and work with tenant advocates to quickly implement permanent protections. You cannot leave people in a constant state of dread unsure if they are going to be thrown out in the next month or not, we need to come up with a long term solution to this crisis because otherwise things are going to steadily get worse. I would like to conclude by specifically calling out my Council Member, Traci Park, who claimed during her campaign to support tenants rights. This is it, this is the time to prove that, otherwise she should expect to continue to catch constant criticism in any public venue for her failure to protect her most vulnerable constituents. She and many other members of the council claim to be serious about tackling homelessness, but a failure to protect renters will demonstrate that really all this council cares about is perpetual class war against poor people.