

Communication from Public

Name: Malik Shakur

Date Submitted: 02/25/2021 02:19 PM

Council File No: 21-0183

Comments for Public Posting: COVID-19 has caused the world to change and adapt to a new normal. But what it did not do was weigh the functionality of how the law works (i.e., civil procedure) and slow down the pandemic. The rent moratorium failed in my situation because it does not prevent eviction during a pandemic adding to Los Angeles County homelessness. I now have to be out of my out my home by April 25, 2021. I listened to you and Mayor Garcetti about sheltering in place, and I quarantined three times. Also, I had to go the extra mile because I live around several people in their 70's so my home became my refuge to heal from COVID and the loss of friends and families to COVID. I DID MY PART, BUT THIS RENT MORATORIUM DID NOT PREVENT MY EVICTION. I notified the landlord in April of 2020 per the city ordinance after receiving the three-day notice placed on our door with a letter. In the letter, I explained my income due to Covid and that we would pay them the back rent once our unemployment kicked in. On or about November 15, I was served with eviction papers. On or about November 17, 2020, I began getting sick again. Between November 17 and December 2020, I was SICK. I continued to quarantine because I wasn't improving. I followed the governmental orders to mask, shelter in place, and social distance because I was sick. On December 23, 2020, it all turned for the worst! By January 5, 2021, my temperature had finally broken, but I still had nagging coughing and a slight temperature. Speaking was difficult, my concentration was gone, and my only focus was to heal while not infecting any of the seniors living in my building. On January 10, 2021, I tested positive for Covid. I went back into quarantine for another 15 days. On January 25, per the Covid-19 Tenant Relief ACT, I sent the landlord's lawyer 25% of a year's rent, and they sent it back claiming I wasn't the legal tenant, which I am. On February 18, 2021, I was served a notice to vacate by February 21, 2021. The landlord had gotten a default judgment because I failed to file an answer because I was quarantined with Covid. I moved into 4819 Tacana Street #18 Los Angeles, CA 90008 February 2019. My aunt and I both work in entertainment and share the expenses of the apartment and car. My aunt moved into the apartment in July 2010. During ten years, she has had various roommates to help with the expenses. When I moved in, she notified the management company that I would be

there, and the management company a few months later send a tenant update sheet which my aunt put my name on, making me a legal tenant. THIS RENT MORATORIUM IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT TENANTS FROM EVICTION! THE GOAL OF THE MORATORIUM SHOULD BE TO KEEP ANGELONIES SAFE IN THEIR HOME DURING THIS PANDEMIC AND NOT ADD TO THE HOMELESSNESS THAT IS CURRENTLY OUT OF CONTROL.

VIA EMAIL

Thursday, February 25, 2021

**To: Housing Committee - COUNCILMEMBER GILBERT CEDILLO, CHAI
COUNCILMEMBER NITHYA RAMAN, COUNCILMEMBER MARQUEECE HARRIS-
DAWSON, COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KREKORIAN, COUNCILMEMBER JOHN LEE**

From: Malik Shakur

RE: I WILL BE HOMELESS IN 57 DAYS

Dear Councilmembers:

When you are of color, you know to your core justice is never equal. That the greatest lie ever talked about justice being equal starts from this country's inception that all men are created equal if your white and male. I have been evicted from my apt. The rent moratorium and following the instruction of medical professionals, Federal, State and Local Government have all failed me for I will be homeless is 60 Days.

I moved into 4819 Tacana Street #18 Los Angeles, CA 90008 February 2019. My aunt and I both work in entertainment and share the expenses of the apartment and car. My aunt moved into the apartment in July 2010, and over the course of 10 years, she has had various roommates to help with the expenses. When I moved in, she notified the management company that I would be there, and the management company a few months later send a tenant update sheet which my aunt put my name on, making me a legal tenant. I've paid rent directly to the on-sight manager Mel Maxey a couple of times, but most of the time, it was my aunt to pay the rent.

From February 2019 through February 2020, all rent payments were made. I've been in the unit more than she has, for she was working on a project in New York City. I contracted Covid in March 2020. My physician instructed me to quarantine for 21 days Because of my underlying asthma condition resulting from 9/11. Within those 21 days, March's rent was due. But I could not pay the rent because I was sick. My aunt, who was also ill, could get the rent paid because she was undergoing chemotherapy. I notified the landlord in April of 2020 per the city ordinance after I received the three-day notice placed on our door with a letter. In the letter I explained my income due to Covid and that we would pay them the back rent once our unemployment kicked in. On May 27, 2020, my aunt passed, and I was still recovering from COVID 19.

During my several weeks of recovery and the endless day of trying to get my unemployment, the rent moratorium was put in place and extended. From June through November of 2020, I heard nothing from the landlord. On or about November 15, I was served with eviction papers. On or about November 17, 2020 I began getting sick again.

I consulted my doctor, who advised me to quarantine again and to monitor my breathing and temperature. According to my doctor, I was to not go to the hospital unless my breathing became an issue.

Between November 17 and December 20, I was very SICK. I continued to quarantine because I wasn't improving. It was just consistent. On December 23, it all turned for the worst. My temperature spiked as high as 103. For two weeks, it bounced between 99 and 103 degrees. I was violently coughing, no sense of smell or taste, and no appetite.

By January 5, 2021, my temperature had finally broken, but I still had nagging coughing and a slight temperature. Speaking was difficult, my concentration was gone, and my only focus was to heal while not infecting any of the seniors living in my building. On January 10, 2021 I tested positive for Covid. I went back into quarantine for another 15 days. On January 25 per the Covid-19 Tenant Relief ACT, I went to the post office and purchased three money orders equaling 25% of one year's rent which had to be paid before January 31, 2021. Sometime in February of 2021, the landlord's lawyer sent the money back claiming I was not the legal tenant, and therefore, they were returning my rent. On February 18, 2021, I was served a notice to vacate by February 21, 2021. The landlord had gotten a default judgment because I failed to file an answer because I was quarantine with Covid. That afternoon I rushed and filed papers at the Santa Monica courthouse to prevent the lock. On February 19, 2021, I went to court, and the case was moved to February 22, 2021, because I had not properly serviced the landlord.

During the hearing, the judge weighed the evidence I had provided, proving I've lived in the apartment since February 2019. However, because I could not produce a note from my doctor, she would not grant my motion to stay or vacate the order to set aside the default judgment. I tried to explain to the judge that my doctor had not answered my email but would. She was not interested in that, nor was she interested in seeing my medical records that showed I tested negative in November, but COVID was detected or the fact I was high risk due to my Asthma.

I now have to be out of my out my home by April 25, 2021. I listened to Governor Newsom, Mayor Garcetti and my doctor about sheltering in place, and I quarantined three times. Also, I had to go the extra mile because I live around several people who are in their 70's so my home became my refuge to heal from COVID and the loss of friends and families to COVID. **I DID MY PART BUT THIS RENT MORATORIUM DID NOT PREVENT MY EVICTION.**

COVID-19 has caused the world to change and adapt to a new normal. But what it did not do was weigh the functionality of how the law works (i.e., civil procedure) and slowing down of the pandemic. The rent moratorium failed in my situation. Therefore, I am calling on your help to find a way to keep me in my apt. I should have been evicted since I am a legal tenant, especially when I am following the guidelines set out by the California Legislation with notification and payments and the support of Federal CDC Temporary Eviction Halt.

Time is of the essence, thank you for your time regarding this matter!

Malik Shakur
Soon to be Homeless in 60 days.