

Communication from Public

Name: Michael Phaneuf

Date Submitted: 06/10/2026 10:35 AM

Council File No: 22-0178

Comments for Public Posting: As a tenant in Los Angeles, I call on the Los Angeles City Council to vote to ban Ratio Utility Billing Systems, or RUBS, in all housing across this city. Landlords who charge tenants for utilities through RUBS are systematically violating the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and the Tenant Protection Act. Ratio Utility Billing Systems subject tenants to bogus charges and allow landlords to get away with fraud. Imagine paying a costly bill for something you didn't actually use. That, essentially, is the failure that is RUBS. RUBS also poses challenges to consumer protections, dissuades landlords from investing in environmentally-friendly infrastructure or making basic repairs to address waste, and allows landlords to put huge junk fees and other costly fees on our utility bills. This needs to end now. Tenants have the right to transparency, but existing law gives us no way to enforce that right. I urge you to support Debt Collective's proposal for stronger action by the City Council on RUBS.

Communication from Public

Name: Brit D

Date Submitted: 06/10/2026 11:07 AM

Council File No: 22-0178

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Communication from Public

Name: Daniel

Date Submitted: 06/10/2026 12:45 PM

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Communication from Public

Name: Dyane T Pascall

Date Submitted: 06/10/2026 07:06 PM

Council File No: 22-0178

Comments for Public Posting: I support the ban on rubs on all units, not just RSO units, because it destabilizes tenants. Leaving your apartment for a month to only be met with a utility bill higher than the previous month, even after using less energy, is frustrating. Moreover, there's no transparency when we request a breakdown or explanation of the bill. We're responsible for communal spaces' energy usage, especially when the building rents them out for short-term stays and still bills us for that energy.

Communication from Public

Name: Maddy

Date Submitted: 06/10/2026 09:13 PM

Council File No: 22-0178

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to support the current actions to increase transparency on ratio utility billing systems (RUBS) as well as express how much a ban on RUBS across housing units would make a difference in my life and in support of the Debt Collective's efforts. I live in Koreatown and am charged on my unit usually \$300+ a month. It's incredibly stressful to navigate the costs, which we really don't have any ability to affect or lower through not using AC or not running high electricity or water things. While technically informed of the items that would be in our utilities, I can't imagine predicting what the costs would be, in comparison to the other units I've lived in in LA. RUBS encourages tenants to ignore their own usage, maybe increase individual costs if you'll be paying extreme costs for utilities no matter what you do. It certainly adds financial stress and makes affordability even harder in a city where its hard enough to live. It doesn't seem related to utilities at all, just another way to increase rent. I don't live in a rent controlled unit, but RUBS still add stress to my life. We need action on RUBS in rent controlled units, but we also need it across the city. I urge you to support Debt Collective's proposal for stronger action by the City Council on RUBS.

Communication from Public

Name: Sofia

Date Submitted: 06/10/2026 09:36 PM

Council File No: 22-0178

Comments for Public Posting: As a tenant in Los Angeles, I am demanding that the City Council put an end to Ratio Utility Billing Systems — RUBS — once and for all. I do everything in my power to conserve utilities. I take short showers, I unplug appliances, I'm mindful every single day about my usage. And yet I am still being charged nearly \$300 every month on top of my base rent, with no ledger, no breakdown, no proof, no transparency! I'm expected to just pay whatever number my landlord invents. That is not a utility bill. That is a blank check extracted from tenants. RUBS is a loophole that landlords exploit to violate the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and the Tenant Protection Act. It allows them to shift their operating costs onto tenants with zero oversight. It enables inflated, arbitrary, and often fraudulent charges. It forces renters to pay for utilities we did not use and cannot verify. And it punishes the very people who are already doing their best to conserve resources in a city facing climate crisis. RUBS also removes any incentive for landlords to fix leaks, upgrade infrastructure, or address waste. Why would they? They can just dump the cost onto tenants and call it "billing." RUBS is not about conservation...it's about extraction. Tenants deserve transparency. We deserve itemized bills. We deserve accountability. But under RUBS, we get none of that. We get junk fees, surprise charges, and the constant threat of financial instability, all while landlords profit from a system designed to obscure the truth. This is not tenant responsibility. This is landlord cost-shifting disguised as utility billing, and it needs to end. I urge the City Council to support the Debt Collective's proposal and take bold, immediate action to ban RUBS in Los Angeles. Tenants have waited long enough for fairness, transparency, and protection under the law.