

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 23-0731

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable Members of the LA City Council, I am writing to express my strong opposition to any policy that would allow tenants to self-certify their inability to pay rent due to the Palisades/Eaton fires without providing proof of their financial hardship. While I fully support providing relief to those genuinely affected by these disasters, allowing self-attestation creates significant potential for abuse, as we saw during the COVID-19 eviction moratoriums. During the pandemic, many landlords faced financial hardship themselves due to fraudulent claims made under self-certification policies. Implementing a similar policy now would unfairly burden property owners who rely on rent payments to cover mortgages, property taxes, and maintenance costs. Requiring tenants to provide documentation of their inability to pay—such as a layoff notice, proof of reduced income, or other verifiable evidence—ensures that relief reaches those truly impacted by the fires, while preventing misuse of these policies. This small but essential step promotes fairness and accountability for all parties involved. I urge the City Council to include a requirement for proof of hardship in any emergency tenant protection measures related to the Palisades/Eaton fires. This approach balances compassion for affected tenants with the need to protect landlords from undue financial harm. Thank you for considering my concerns.