

Communication from Public

Name: Cynthia Strathmann

Date Submitted: 08/26/2026 10:20 AM

Council File No: 26-1200-S48

Comments for Public Posting: Please see letter attached regarding SAJE's opposition to the appointment of Daniel Tenenbaum to the HACLA Commission.



August 26, 2026

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

Strategic Actions for a Just Economy writes to express serious concerns regarding the appointment of Daniel Tenenbaum to the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles Board of Commissioners and to urge the City Council not to expedite this appointment without full committee consideration and meaningful input from the public.

Commissioners are entrusted with the stewardship of public housing, public land, public resources, and policies that directly affect the stability of thousands of low-income Angelenos. Their obligation must be to HACLA residents and the public, not to the priorities of the private real estate industry.

Mr. Tenenbaum's longstanding leadership role within the California Apartment Association raises significant questions about potential conflicts between the interests he has represented through CAA and the public-interest responsibilities he would assume as a HACLA Commissioner. Mr. Tenenbaum has served for years on the California Apartment Association State Board and identifies himself as a past chair of CAA's Los Angeles Advisory Board. These positions reflect Tenenbaum's longstanding leadership within one of California's most influential landlord lobbying organizations.

CAA's record demonstrates why Mr. Tenenbaum's appointment deserves greater scrutiny. CAA has repeatedly used its advocacy and litigation resources to oppose tenant protections and climate policy on behalf of the private real estate industry. Most recently, CAA challenged Pasadena's voter-approved Measure H, which established rent stabilization, just-cause eviction protections, and a tenant-majority Rental Housing Board, successfully overturning portions of the measure concerning relocation assistance and eviction notice requirements.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CAA opposed the city's eviction moratorium and rent freeze, called on the City Council to terminate those protections, and later supported litigation challenging the eviction moratorium as unconstitutional. The organization also opposed strengthening the city's Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance, opposed the city's elimination of "substantial remodel" evictions, and opposed proposed rent freezes and eviction protections following the 2025 wildfires. CAA's advocacy also extends beyond housing policy. The organization is currently challenging the South Coast Air Quality Management District's zero-NOx standards for water heaters and boilers, a significant building decarbonization policy.



Mr. Tenenbaum is not just a real estate professional; he has held significant positions within CAA. The council should therefore examine whether his continuing relationships with CAA and

the private rental housing industry would conflict with his obligations as a HACLA Commissioner, including interrogating how Tenenbaum would approach HACLA decisions involving tenant protections, relocation requirements, private development and management partners, decarbonization standards, or legislation on which CAA has taken an opposing position.

The council should answer those questions before, not after, confirming his appointment. At minimum, it should examine the nature of Mr. Tenenbaum's current relationship with CAA, whether he intends to continue serving on CAA's board while serving on HACLA, his financial or organizational relationships with entities that do business with HACLA, and the circumstances under which he would recuse himself.

That is precisely why this appointment should not be waived out of committee or otherwise expedited. HACLA residents deserve an opportunity to ask whether someone who has helped lead an organization dedicated to advancing the interests of private landlords should simultaneously be entrusted with governing Los Angeles' public housing.

We respectfully urge the City Council to require full committee consideration and meaningful public input before voting on Mr. Tenenbaum's appointment. HACLA residents deserve confidence that those entrusted with governing their homes will put resident stability, long-term affordability, and responsible stewardship of public resources ahead of the interests of the private real estate industry.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Strathmann, Executive Director
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy

Communication from Public

Name: Philip Meyer

Date Submitted: 08/26/2026 10:17 AM

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Los Angeles City Council, The Rent Brigade strongly urges the Los Angeles City Council to reject the appointment of Daniel Tenenbaum to the HACLA Board of Commissioners. At a moment when low-income renters, immigrant families, and public housing itself face extraordinary threats, Los Angeles needs HACLA commissioners who have demonstrated that they will protect tenants and safeguard public housing. Tenenbaum's record as a landlord and his ties to the California Apartment Association give us serious reason to believe that he is the wrong person for this responsibility. Tenenbaum is a landlord with properties across Los Angeles who has been characterized by his own tenants as a slumlord. His track record raises serious questions about his fitness to oversee an agency responsible for housing some of the city's most vulnerable residents. Someone whose own record as a landlord has generated these concerns would be a liability to the City, not an appropriate steward of Los Angeles's public housing. His relationship with the California Apartment Association only deepens those concerns. CAA's leadership and financial supporters include some of the largest and most troubling actors in the real estate industry. Companies associated with or financially supporting CAA include Equity Residential, which has faced criticism for imposing "junk fees" that increase tenants' costs outside of base rent and Greystar, which was identified among landlords imposing illegal rent increases in the aftermath of the Los Angeles wildfires, to name only two. CAA has also repeatedly used its political and legal power to fight policies adopted by local governments to advance tenant protections, climate goals, and building decarbonization. The organization has supported efforts to overturn Los Angeles's restrictions on gas in new construction and played an important role in opposing efforts at the South Coast Air Quality Management District to phase out polluting gas appliances. HACLA commissioners oversee public assets and make decisions that directly affect the lives of thousands of low-income Angelenos. The City should not put that responsibility in the hands of someone whose record and institutional affiliations are so closely aligned with an industry that has repeatedly fought against the housing, environmental, and social policies Los Angeles has worked to advance. Finally, an appointment this

consequential should not be waived out of committee and rushed through Council without meaningful public scrutiny. HACLA residents, low-income renters, immigrant communities, and housing advocates deserve an opportunity to evaluate the nominee and make their voices heard. The people most affected by HACLA's decisions should have a say in who is entrusted with making them. For all of these reasons, we strongly urge the City Council not to approve Daniel Tenenbaum's appointment. Send the appointment through the normal committee process, allow residents and renters to participate, and select a commissioner whose record demonstrates an unequivocal commitment to protecting tenants, preserving public housing, and keeping Angelenos housed. Thank you for your consideration. The Rent Brigade



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