

March 13, 2020

Council President Georgette Gomez
San Diego City Council
202 C Street, 10th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Council President Gomez:

We ask that you immediately docket an emergency ordinance that would provide a moratorium on all eviction filings and evictions within the City of San Diego. In light of the current public health crisis generated by coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and in order to respond to the public health guidelines and to prevent further economic hardships to working families, we respectfully request this emergency ordinance to address immediate policies to help San Diegans during this trying moment for our nation and for the international community. Because of the high cost of housing and homelessness, and requests by public officials, employers, and universities to work from home we ask that you take immediate action.

As a representative of the city with the 4th highest homeless population and in one of the most expensive rental markets in the nation the need to protect residents facing eviction and homelessness and the potential spread of this disease is of paramount importance to the health, safety and welfare of our friends and neighbors.

The County of San Diego's information on how to stop the spread of this disease lists the importance of "wash(ing) your hands often with soap and water" and if sick to "stay home." Tragically, for those families and individuals evicted into homelessness these suggestions become all but impossible to adhere too. Therefore, we urge you to immediately docket an emergency ordinance that would provide:

- A moratorium on all rental evictions and foreclosures, vehicle habitation fees and impounds, late fees and utility shut offs due to non-payment resulting from a loss of wages caused by the outbreak of COVID-19, and until public health professionals have determined that the Coronavirus outbreak has been contained. Rent payments would not be waived entirely; but just deferred, to prevent landlords from moving forward with unfair evictions and give time to tenants to earn enough income to pay their rent.
- Request the City Attorney to report back on a strategy with potential options to work with banks and lenders to halt mortgage payments for individuals who have suffered severe loss of wages due to the spread of COVID-19.
- Implement a 14-day paid sick leave requirement for workers who may be quarantined or are caregivers of someone who is quarantined and/or were laid off or furloughed as a result of COVID-19.

We look forward to working with you to protect the health and safety of San Diegans.

Sincerely,

Laura Ann Fernea
Executive Director
City Heights CDC

Nancy Maldonado
CEO
Chicano Federation of San Diego County

Grace Martinez
San Diego Director
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)

Ricardo Flores
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Alor Calderon
Employee Rights Center