

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** Within the relationship between landlord and tenant there exists an inherent power difference. As you have heard from the courageous and vulnerable stories from our coalition members and tenants there have been clear instances of misuse of power in the form of interpersonal violence. To be clear, interpersonal violence (IV) includes the intentional use of force against a person or group of people resulting in injury, death, or psychological harm. Research on the topic of interpersonal violence shows that victimization leads to a stress response and an increased risk of the development of trauma symptoms, especially in powerless situations. Victims of IV have been found to develop internalizing symptoms (such as depression and anxiety) and externalizing symptoms (such as impulsivity and oppositional behavior) (Finkelhor et al., 2009; Ford et al., 2011; Turner et al., 2010). The stories that the tenants have shared with the city council echo the reality of these research findings as shown in their need to access mental health services to cope with what they have experienced. It is crucial to recognize that homes should be safe space for individuals and families and the impact of interpersonal violence on families and children must be considered in tenant-landlord relationships. Exposure to such violence can significantly affect children, leading to increasing internalizing problems throughout childhood (Gilliom & Shaw, 2004). For our tenants speaking here today and for our larger community of Los Angeles tenants we must include amendments to the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance that restores a balance of power between tenants and landlords for safer and healthier communities for all of us. Research Citations used: Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R. K., & Turner, H. A. (2009). Lifetime assessment of poly-victimization in a national sample of children and Youth. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 33(7), 403–411. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2008.09.012> Ford, J. D., Elhai, J. D., Connor, D. F., & Frueh, B. C. (2010). Poly-victimization and risk of posttraumatic, depressive, and substance use disorders and involvement in delinquency in a national sample of adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 46(6), 545–552. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2009.11.212> GILLIOM, M., & SHAW, D. S. (2004). Codevelopment of externalizing and internalizing problems in early childhood. *Development and*

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