

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carlos Gonzalez

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 12:44 PM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hi, my name is Carlos Gonzalez. I am giving a general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in South LA, council district 9. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am also here to support all of the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month. We call on the City Attorney's Office to also fix the declaration of purpose, so it is in line with Council directives to draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance. Lastly, I'd like to thank all the Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue. Not having representation is extremely scary, especially people who aren't as familiar with the legal system. Seeing my mom having to represent herself was hard to see and so much miss communication was happening that eventually I had to go up to speak as a 13-year-old trying my best to represent and help my mother the best I could. I urge all City Councilmembers to vote yes on RTC today and support the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee. Thank you!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mariana Luna

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 01:34 PM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hi, my name is Mariana Luna. I am giving a general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in South LA, CD 9. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am also here to support all of the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month. We call on the City Attorney's Office to also fix the declaration of purpose so it is in line with Council directives to draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance. Lastly, I'd like to thank all the Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jasmine

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 09:55 AM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hi, my name is Jasmine. I am giving a general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am also here to support all of the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month. We call on the City Attorney's Office to also fix the declaration of purpose so it is in line with Council directives to draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance. Lastly, I'd like to thank all the Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue. I urge all City Councilmembers to vote yes on RTC today and support the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee. Thank you!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amy linda Nevarez

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 10:16 AM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hi, my name is Amy Nevarez. I am giving a general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in district 8. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am also here to support all of the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month. We call on the City Attorney's Office to also fix the declaration of purpose so it is in line with Council directives to draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance. Lastly, I'd like to thank all the Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Maria Patino Gutierrez

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 10:28 AM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a renter, and I live in Council District 14 . I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am also here to support all of the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month. We call on the City Attorney's Office to also fix the declaration of purpose so it is in line with Council directives to draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance. Lastly, I'd like to thank all the Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue. I urge all City Councilmembers to vote yes on RTC today and support the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee. Thank you!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Manuel Mireles

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 10:06 AM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hi, my name is \_\_ Hello my name is Manuel Mireles mireles I am giving a general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in Council district 14. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am also here to support all of the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month. We call on the City Attorney's Office to also fix the declaration of purpose so it is in line with Council directives to draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance. Lastly, I'd like to thank all the Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Asha White

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 10:09 AM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hi, my name is Asha White. I am giving a general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in Los Angeles, California. Council District #14. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am also here to support all of the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month. We call on the City Attorney's Office to also fix the declaration of purpose so it is in line with Council directives to draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance. Lastly, I'd like to thank all the Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue. In 2023 my landlord Ruben Islas tried to illegally evict me. I was unable to have legal representation because there were thousand of people through out Los Angeles County being evicted at the time because of financial hardship due to Covid. The Los Angeles Los Angeles County Superior Court Stanley Mosk Courthouse treated me like a criminal because I wasn't able to have legal representation.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Francisco Arvizu

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 10:40 AM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hi, my name is Francisco. I am giving a general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in CD 7. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I am also here to support all of the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month. We call on the City Attorney's Office to also fix the declaration of purpose so it is in line with Council directives to draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance. Lastly, I'd like to thank all the Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue. As a community organizer at SAJE, I see firsthand, every week, how tenants are constantly at risk of illegal evictions. Slum and corporate landlords often prioritize profits above all, even if it means displacing vulnerable people, entire families, and our elders. The Right to Counsel is not just an idea, it's a necessary solution to combat the growing epidemic of illegal evictions and protect our communities from being torn apart. I urge all City Councilmembers to vote yes on RTC today and support the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee. Thank you!



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Cassidy Bennett  
**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 11:00 AM  
**Council File No:** 14-0268-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hi, my name is Cassidy Bennett, I am an attorney at Public Counsel, I live in Council District 4 and I am in support of the Right to Counsel. I also support all of the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month. We call on the City Attorney's Office to also fix the declaration of purpose so it is in line with Council directives to draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance. Lastly, I'd like to thank all the Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance. I also want to thank my Councilmember, Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue. As a lawyer who does not work on evictions, I know that Eviction Defense is a complicated subject and requires expertise that I am grateful my colleagues who are defending tenants in court bring to the table every day. To be a tenant with no lawyer in this situation would be entirely overwhelming and require a significant amount of time and energy, while also being faced with the emotional burden of potentially losing your home. No one should go through this experience alone. We have enacted strong tenant protections in the City of LA, and I am grateful to the Councilmembers who have worked to enact them - but we need tenants to have support in court if we want them to make the difference for tenants that is necessary. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Raymond Fang

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 11:26 AM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Raymond Fang. I am giving public comment in support of Right to Counsel. I am a renter, and I live in Council District 10. I strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance. I also support all of the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month. I call on the City Attorney's Office to also fix the declaration of purpose so it is in line with Council directives to draft a Right to Counsel Ordinance. Lastly, I'd like to thank all the Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance. I also want to thank Councilmember Raman for your leadership on this critical issue.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Community Legal Aid SoCal

**Date Submitted:** 09/11/2024 11:34 AM

**Council File No:** 14-0268-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** September 11, 2024 LA City Council Re: Right to Council Ordinance and Amendments Dear LA City Councilmembers, I am writing on behalf of Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal) to express our support for a codified Right to Counsel ordinance as well as the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month. We would like to thank all Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance and Councilmember Raman for leadership on this critical issue. CLA SoCal is a legal aid organization focused on meeting the legal needs of low-income people in Southeast Los Angeles, and has a dedicated Los Angeles housing team that advises and represents tenants who face eviction proceedings. Through that work, we see how legal representation makes a substantive difference on the outcomes for our clients. Tenants who would otherwise find themselves without stable housing are afforded with the vital legal assistance to navigate complex and critical summary proceedings. As a result, they can either maintain housing or have sufficient time to obtain other housing, leading to better outcomes for themselves and their families. Take one of our recent clients, a disabled middle-aged man who had cognitive issues after a hit and run left him with brain injuries. His landlord filed an unlawful detainer case to evict our client from the home that he and his son had lived in for years. Our client had been paying some rent but had not understood how to recertify his Section 8 status. Before reaching out to seek our assistance, the landlord pressured our client to sign an agreement, sight unseen, that would have resulted in our client's eviction. Our client was overwhelmed, but found our services. We helped him apply for rental assistance, receive credit for his prior rental payments, and to get his Section 8 reinstated. As a result, our client and his son were able to stay in their home, and his landlord was able to receive past-due payments. Our client was one of the lucky few. In Los Angeles, 90% of tenants facing evictions do not have legal representation, while 90% of tenants are represented by an attorney. Those lopsided odds matter: represented tenants almost always lose their eviction cases when the landlord is represented, even when they have valid legal defenses. Evictions have a devastating effect on those who lose their housing, and also on our broader community. They fuel the homelessness and

housing crisis and reinforce structural inequities. More than half the people experiencing homelessness said it was due to economic hardship and 1 in 4 unsheltered Angelenos lost their homes in 2018. State data shows that women and people of color are more likely to experience homelessness and are disproportionately impacted by evictions. Increased representation, on the other hand, improves the lives of Angelenos and will save the City money, reducing costs related to homeless services and emergency shelters. Right to counsel will keep more people in their homes or allows more time to move out and find alternative housing, increasing a family's chance of avoiding homelessness by over 70%. With legal representation, Angelenos will be able to preserve their homes, resulting in increased overall safety, well-being, stability, and happiness. For these reasons, we strongly urge City Councilmembers to vote yes on RTC today and support the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee. Sincerely, Patricia Moon Directing Attorney for Client Services Community Legal Aid SoCal



Community  
Legal Aid SoCal

Advocates for Justice in Orange and Los Angeles Counties

September 10, 2024

LA City Council

Re: Right to Council Ordinance and Amendments

Dear LA City Councilmembers,

I am writing on behalf of Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal) to express our support for a codified Right to Counsel ordinance as well as the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee members last month.

We would like to thank all Councilmembers who have already voted yes to advance a Right to Counsel Ordinance and Councilmember Raman for leadership on this critical issue.

CLA SoCal is a legal aid organization focused on meeting the legal needs of low-income people in Southeast Los Angeles, and has a dedicated Los Angeles housing team that advises and represents tenants who face eviction proceedings. Through that work, we see how legal representation makes a substantive difference on the outcomes for our clients. Tenants who would otherwise find themselves without stable housing are afforded with the vital legal assistance to navigate complex and critical summary proceedings. As a result, they can either maintain housing or have sufficient time to obtain other housing, leading to better outcomes for themselves and their families.

Take one of our recent clients, a disabled middle-aged man who had cognitive issues after a hit and run left him with brain injuries. His landlord filed an unlawful detainer case to evict our client from the home that he and his son had lived in for years. Our client had been paying some rent but had not understood how to recertify his Section 8 status. Before reaching out to seek our assistance, the landlord pressured our client to sign an agreement, sight unseen, that would have resulted in our client's eviction. Our client was overwhelmed, but found our services. We helped him apply for rental assistance, receive credit for his prior rental payments, and to get his Section 8 reinstated. As a result, our client and his son were able to stay in their home, and his landlord was able to receive past-due payments.

Our client was one of the lucky few. In Los Angeles, 90% of tenants facing evictions do not have legal representation, while 90% of tenants are represented by an attorney. Those lopsided odds matter: represented tenants almost always lose their eviction cases when the landlord is represented, even when they have valid legal defenses. Evictions have a devastating effect on those who lose their housing, and also on our broader community. They fuel the homelessness and housing crisis and reinforce structural inequities. More than half the people experiencing homelessness said it was due to economic hardship and 1 in 4 unsheltered Angelenos lost their homes in 2018. State data shows that women and people of color are more likely to experience homelessness and are disproportionately impacted by evictions.

Increased representation, on the other hand, improves the lives of Angelenos and will save the City money, reducing costs related to homeless services and emergency shelters. Right to counsel will keep more people in their homes or allows more time to move out and find alternative housing, increasing a family's chance of avoiding homelessness by over 70%. With legal representation, Angelenos will be able to preserve their homes, resulting in increased overall safety, well-being, stability, and happiness.

For these reasons, we strongly urge City Councilmembers to vote yes on RTC today and support the amendments passed by the Housing and Homeless Committee.

Sincerely,

Akiko Krystina Nishino  
Director of Legal Services  
Community Legal Aid SoCal