

Communication from Public

Name: Catalina Romo Paxcle

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Comments for Public Posting: Hello my name is Catalina Romo Paxcle and I am a program manager at Stay Housed LA for our Outreach and Education work. I see everyday how there are many more tenants in need than those we can help do to limited capacity. With a Right to Counsel we will increase our capacity to serve tenants in their most time of need. I am here to urge city leaders to address some important issues impacting tenants such as amending the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance, amending the draft Right to Counsel ordinance, and releasing the United to House LA (ULA) funds to materially support tenants in need. A lot of time has passed since the last Housing and Homelessness committee met and tenants cannot afford more delays. I strongly support the 7 proposed amendments to close loopholes in the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (TAHO). Since the passage of the Tenant Anti-Harassment ordinance in August 2021, it has been nearly impossible to use the ordinance to stop harassment. I also strongly support a codified Right to Counsel ordinance, with key amendments that need to be made to the draft. We call for Tenants Right to Counsel to be included in the title and throughout the ordinance so it aligns with City Council motion directives. We need clear definitions around which tenants are eligible and a zip code based model, and when to seek legal representation so tenants can connect to Stay Housed LA. We also ask for added language so that landlords post notice of Right to Counsel in common areas.