

Communication from Public

Name: Laura Rosen

Date Submitted: 11/07/2023 01:59 PM

Council File No: 20-0407-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing today to urge the city council to vote against the motion that would allow landlords to increase rent on RSO units throughout the city. A rent increase, whether it's the 4-6% introduced at the Housing Committee last week, or the planned 7-9%, in this current economy is unfathomable. Rent is already too high. Having failed to cancel rent debt, failed to enforce the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance, and failed to end abuses of the Ellis Act, the City Council is now preparing to give landlords one more weapon in their war against tenants by allowing rent increases to resume at the highest percentage since 1985. Every day, landlords already circumvent rent control by harassing tenants to flip units. If the City Council allows this rent increase on top of its non-enforcement of existing laws, it will mean more evictions, more homelessness, and more poor and working-class Angelenos forced out of Los Angeles. We the tenants demand that the City Council pass an amendment preventing rent hikes in 2024 and a resolution to investigate the LA Housing Department's non-enforcement of existing laws. Unless you pass this amendment, the eviction and homelessness crisis that you claim to be trying to solve will become more severe. Inflation and food prices have left many unable to feed themselves or their families. People are going into debt just to pay the bills. Wages have been stagnant for years and for those in the entertainment industry the strikes have hit hard and many have been out of work for months. To put this increase on the backs of the working class and pricing already struggling tenants out of their homes is heartless and inhumane. Is that the legacy you wish to leave? That you favored the corporate greed of landlords over the lives of the citizens you claim to represent? We are at a breaking point and we will remember this when elections happen next year. FREEZE THE RENT!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/07/2023 12:23 PM

Council File No: 20-0407-S1

Comments for Public Posting: One vote of yes for this motion means more homeless people on the street. 4-6% is way too much when the homeless numbers are huge and there are 50,000 evictions. What is wrong with this body they do not care. This body will vote yes because this body dose not care about how many people are on the street. This body needs to be replaced.

Communication from Public

Name: Doug

Date Submitted: 11/07/2023 02:11 PM

Council File No: 20-0407-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I am a mom and pop property owner. I own a small apartment building in west L.A. we as owners have been locked in at 3% rent increase for almost 30 years. And now Housing board wants to renege on the rent increase of 7% and knock it down to 4%! Where does this illogical thinking come from? Contrary to what city officials think, all landlords are not super wealthy, and are not villains, and all renters are not saints. I grew up around this business and have seen the blatant destruction of property by tenants. This is seeming more like a force out and land grab by the city. If the city or state think that they can run multi unit rentals , I wish you luck! Every city or state run housing I have seen is a broken down slum. When members of the Housing committee pull in salaries of over \$200,000. a year and live in rent controlled apartments something is very wrong. Operating expenses for my property have gone up 330%! that is not a typo. Yet asking for a rental increase once a year of 7% is deemed outrageous by the housing committee. Last year my income after taxes and upkeep of my property I made \$35,000. But I am supposed to believe that owners are the problem? Do the right thing for once, stop the increase freeze, and make it 7%. That would be a start. Sincerely, D. Felts

Communication from Public

Name: Susan Collins

Date Submitted: 11/07/2023 03:41 PM

Council File No: 20-0407-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I STRONGLY OPPOSE the extension of the rent freeze and Blumenfield's unrealistic caps - The same people who are bringing forward this motion stood in picket lines for higher wages for workers - but they want to deny housing providers the ability to maintain our expenses. Rents have been frozen for 4 years! In addition many housing providers have not been able to collect ANY rent while additional tenants and pets were moved into our buildings. The costs to maintain our rental properties has climbed with inflation, our taxes and fees have all increased while the city and state have forced us to accept whatever payments we can scrape up. Housing providers have already shouldered the lion's share of the economic burden created by the pandemic. ENOUGH of the hypocrisy! If writers, actors, teachers, hotel and service workers all deserve huge raises, then it's also time to allow housing providers with the ability to catch up as well. ENOUGH is ENOUGH! If Hugo wants to provide low cost housing he should give up his rent controlled apartment to someone who isn't making almost \$300,000 per year (paid for by the people who's income he's trying to reduce). In the DSA literature it says they want to eliminate private ownership of property. Motions such as this are intended to accomplish that goal by making it impossible for mom and pop housing providers to meet the financial obligations required to keep their property. PLEASE OPPOSE THIS SOCIALIST DRIVEN MOTION Thank you Susan Collins

Communication from Public

Name: Kayla Wilson

Date Submitted: 11/07/2023 04:14 PM

Council File No: 20-0407-S1

Comments for Public Posting: The people of the city deserve secure, affordable housing. Homelessness is LA's #1 problem & continues to grow. We cannot keep creating conditions that will cause more people to lose their homes. Over 6,000 eviction notices were filed in October. Rent prices in non-rent stabilized housing continue to grow higher and higher, only causing greater inequity in housing for more renters. If the City does not do anything to help those who can't afford these outrageous monthly rent prices, the least it should do is vote to help those in rent-stabilized housing. In District 10, all I see is new buildings going up with numerous floors knowing they will most likely sit empty for years to come. Please do something for those who are lucky enough to have rent-stabilized housing to continue living and not end up on the streets of this City.

Communication from Public

Name: Lindsey Toiaivao

Date Submitted: 11/07/2023 05:28 PM

Council File No: 20-0407-S1

Comments for Public Posting: If LA City Council does not extend the rent freeze, you are virtually guaranteeing the expulsion of thousands of tenants from their homes. You are telling the people of LA, who are already struggling to keep their heads above water with a median rent of \$3,000, that capitulating to landlord greed matters more to you than their lives and wellbeing. You are telling your constituents that they can live on the streets for all you care—and we've seen exactly how inhumane this city treats its homeless population. There have already been over 50,000 eviction notices issued in this city in 2023 alone, 96% of which were due to nonpayment of rent. Do you honestly expect people will be able to afford increased rent when they can't pay as is? How do you propose to help them if and when they fall into homelessness as a result of your decision? As elected officials, you are duty-bound to act in the interest of the people, not corporate landlords. Do your duty and extend the rent freeze, or don't expect to be elected again.

Communication from Public

Name: Shewit Zerai

Date Submitted: 11/07/2023 06:12 PM

Council File No: 20-0407-S1

Comments for Public Posting: The people of Los Angeles can not afford to pay even a 1% increase to their rent; asking for 3-6% is not only immoral but also incredibly short-sighted. We MUST continue to the rent-freeze indefinitely especially since the wages in Los Angeles are not rising and the general cost of living (food, gas, etc.) are. Where do you expect the money to come from? The narrative of mom-and-pop landlords struggling to keep their "businesses" (which is the business of exploiting us for housing, a basic human right and need) is a myth. Ask any housing lawyer, any housing advocate, organizer or tenant how the scales are tipped between landlord and renter. How so many of us are living in homes that are falling apart and unsafe but have to continue paying half of our paychecks without any kinds of recourse. Slumlords are not the exception but the rule and now you want to raise the rent? You are not viewing working class people as fully human and in stripping us of our humanity you strip yourself of your own. I've been a community organizer for over 10 years and I've never seen an appeal to a politicians humanity work. I'm sure you are all going to do what you are bribed to do, which is to say that almost all of you on council are bought out by landlords and property companies. You have no allegiance towards the people of this city, no love or care for our lives. There will be a huge rise in evictions if the rent freeze is lifted and with those evictions will come increased homelessness, sickness and death. People will die as a result of a rent increase and that is a serious and heavy weight to carry. And for what? So landlords, property companies and members of council can make some more money? It's painful to even say out loud and more painful to live through a political system where human lives are worth less than material goods. Regardless of how you vote, just know that in the end the people will win. Perhaps not in the short-term, but in the long-run the people of this city will come together and recognize how powerful we are as a collective. You have an opportunity to offer some of that power back to the people, to create less hostile conditions of living. However you chose to vote, know that we will struggle for our right to life and we will win, no matter what.

Communication from Public

Name: David Potter

Date Submitted: 11/07/2023 06:31 PM

Council File No: 20-0407-S1

Comments for Public Posting: It is very important that you vote no today to reduce the allowable rent increase in Los Angeles from 7% to 4%. Also, do not extend the rent increase date beyond February 1, 2024. Mom and Pop housing providers have not been able to increase rents for 4 years now. That is zero percent while inflation has been 20% cumulative over the past 4 years. This means rents today are worth 20% less than they were 4 years ago. The City Council promised housing providers last year that the rent freeze nonsense would not be extended and that COVID-19 was over a year ago. What happened to that promise from the Los Angeles City Council? Unemployment Levels in Los Angeles are lower than the pre-covid levels the economy is strong with GDP at 3.5% this quarter. We have a growing economy. Stop holding housing providers responsible for the housing shortage. Do what you promised and vote no!

Communication from Public

Name: Anders Johnson

Date Submitted: 11/07/2023 10:40 PM

Council File No: 20-0407-S1

Comments for Public Posting: As a university student with many friends relying on stable, affordable rents in order to continue their education, I know the value and necessity of affordable housing options. raising rents will only harm the most vulnerable members of our community, and threaten to displace and possibly evict our neighbors, family, and friends into the streets. Tenant protections ensure that communities are not decimated by our current housing crisis, and they work best when housing options are expanded. We need to decide what we value more: real, tangible investments in housing options that are shown to succeed, or blanket policies that further provoke an already volatile and socially costly system. For the sake of our neighbors, don't allow rents to be raised. The future of Los Angeles' communities is at stake.