

## Communication from Public

**Name:** EDNA MONROY

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 05:41 PM

**Council File No:** 18-0610-S3

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am Edna Monroy, I am a tenant , and I live in Council District 10, and faced TWO evictions that i successfully won thanks to Stay Housed LA! 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 have been facing extreme landlord harassment for the last 3 years because I refused to accept a cash for keys offer that my landlord was pushing on me. As a result of me holding my right to peace and quiet and not get bullied by my slumlord, i received my first eviction notice in August 2022, which led to an Unlawful Detainer in October 2022. Thanks to the endless support of Eviction Defense Network, and Stay Housed LA, I was able to not only fight my eviction but win it. As my first eviction was dismissed in May 2023, I received another 3-day notice that led to a SECOND UNLAWFUL DETAINER! Inner City Law Center and Stay Housed LA were key for me to be housed, and not be pushed out of my home, where I have been living for 8 years. However, although SHLA is great and helps thousands of tenants, it is not enough, and we need a codified right to counsel to ensure that all tenants that are facing evictions have the codified right to legal representation. 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:** Angela Birdsong

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 07:48 PM

**Council File No:** 18-0610-S3

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hi, my name is Angela Birdsong and I am a housing rights organizer for Los Angeles Community Action Network better known as LA CAN. I work in Council District 14, I reside in the city of Inglewood, a close neighbor of the city of Los Angeles, and I am a landlord in Hermosa Beach. I am giving a general public comment in support of Right to Counsel. No one should EVER be evicted without legal representation. Right to Counsel is about reducing homelessness, and access to equity and justice in court. An eviction case will never be equitable as long as landlords are almost always represented and less than 10% of tenants have legal representation. At LACAN we have legal clinics every Wednesday and i have seen numerous amount of tenants who did know their housing rights, did not understand the eviction process. The renters who attend our legal clinics with Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, LAFLA, experience tenant empowerment while some wished they knew about this Stay Housed LA legal clinics sooner. I support a Right to Counsel for struggling renters because I have seen what happens when a tenant does not understand the eviction process. There is a young man residing in Skid Row who has cognitive challenges and was facing a notice to vacate. His mother and his new case worker brought him to a LA CAN legal clinic looking for answers in order for him to remain housed. One of the Legal Aid for Foundation attorneys was able to call off the deputies. With a Right to Counsel ordinance this young man would have been assigned an attorney who would had avoided a possible lookout and find resources for rental assistance. Having an attorney to help struggling renters navigate the court system, the eviction process is an important tool for survival, for stay housed and avoiding living on the streets. 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:** Fred Sutton

**Date Submitted:** 09/10/2024 10:05 AM

**Council File No:** 18-0610-S3

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please find attached a letter from the California Apartment Association regarding item 1 on the agenda for Wednesday, 9/11.



California Apartment Association  
Los Angeles County

September 9, 2024

Council President Krekorian  
Los Angeles City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
VIA Email

**Re: Item 1- Right to Counsel Draft Ordinance (C.F. [18-0610-S3](#) )**

The California Apartment Association (CAA), representing a spectrum of housing providers and industry-supporting businesses, is committed to promoting fair and equitable housing policies in LA City. We respectfully request the council consider a clarifying amendment to the draft ordinance to ensure the program is easy to understand and comply with.

**Streamline Noticing (Sec. 166.03(B))**: We appreciate the department creating a notice advising tenants of the City Funded Counsel for Tenants Program (the “CFCT Notice”). Standardized noticing for everyone to understand and provide is crucial. However, the draft ordinance has a “primary language” requirement which creates two practical concerns we would appreciate being addressed.

- A housing provider might not be aware of a tenant's primary language. For instance, a resident could be fluent in English or Spanish, and conduct lease negotiations in either language, even if their primary language is Italian.
- Is the CFCT notice going to be available in all languages?

***Recommendation***: The city should create a single notice that includes information in multiple languages and directs tenants to a city website for more information that housing providers can provide in all cases. This simplifies compliance and ensures correct information is delivered to tenants. Provisions of the ordinance direct common area postings to be done in “*English and other commonly spoken languages*” and this should apply to the CFCT notice as well. Housing providers should not be in a position where they are seeking translation services for the city verbiage.

CAA has long maintained that direct monetary assistance is the best way to help those in need and intervene before an eviction commences. RTC laws only delay an eviction and ultimately increase the costs of operations, making housing more expensive and harder to find. As the Right to Counsel Program concept has been approved, we respectfully request the above item be considered for refinement and inclusion.

Sincerely,

Fred Sutton  
California Apartment Association