

February 4th, 2025

Los Angeles City Council
Housing and Homelessness Committee
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: COUNCILMEMBER HERNANDEZ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AGENDA #2 (25-0006-S16)

Dear Honorable Members of the Housing and Homelessness Committee,

I would like to express my deep appreciation for your continued work in addressing the housing challenges facing our city. The devastating impacts of the recent fires are far-reaching, and the urgency of this moment cannot be overstated. On behalf of the residents of the First District, I extend my support for the proposed motion that seeks to provide immediate relief to renters across the city.

The motion before you represents a critical step toward stabilizing our most vulnerable populations. Without immediate intervention, the cumulative effects of displacement and soaring rental prices will force thousands of Angelenos from their homes, many of whom are grappling with job losses and insurmountable medical burdens due to the fires.

I would like to highlight the key provisions in this motion that I strongly support:

Eviction Moratorium for Impacted Tenants

We commend Councilmember Park's motion preventing evictions for those sheltering residents made houseless by the fire, and also agree with her that one year is a reasonable period to ensure our constituents regain their footing. However, our motion specifically targets the thousands of people at heightened risk of being displaced; Angelenos from every council district who worked as gardeners, laborers, or cleaners in the Palisades or Altadena and now find themselves without employment. Additionally, it safeguards renters adhering to their lease who face unjust no-fault evictions from landlords eager to capitalize on the astronomical rent prices offered across our city.

This motion will give them the knowledge that, while rent will still be due, they will retain the security of a roof over their heads, preventing them from becoming part of our unending eviction to homelessness pipeline.

Addressing Price Gouging

The motion also calls for more detailed reporting on price gouging in the rental market. With the increasing demand for rental properties, it is imperative that we closely monitor and mitigate any attempts by landlords to exploit the crisis for undue financial gain.

Urgency

This motion was needed three weeks ago, as soon as it was introduced at the first council meeting after the fires. In the intervening weeks, we have seen a cascade of economic hardship, with thousands of families losing jobs and facing unmanageable rent hikes. I have heard firsthand from many constituents in my district who are struggling to

stay afloat financially after the fires, and I fear that further delays in addressing these issues will result in widespread displacement.

Although there may be a broader effort to evaluate additional protections through the LAHD and City Attorney's pending reports, the scope of this crisis requires us to act now. The motion before you has already been carefully crafted, in close consultation with stakeholders, and is ready to be enacted immediately. If additional, broader protections emerge through future reports, we will certainly support those efforts. However, waiting for a process that could take months will only worsen the suffering of those who need immediate relief.

Our Commitment to Immediate Action

We have seen similar efforts in Councilmember Park's Motion and Governor Newsom's Executive Orders. However, the protections offered by those motions are limited in duration and scope. This motion goes further by protecting those who have been economically impacted, not just those sheltering displaced individuals.

I urge this Committee to move swiftly to adopt this motion in full. Our city cannot afford further delays. We must act now to prevent a second wave of displacement and ensure that the families and individuals affected by the fires are not left to face another crisis of homelessness and economic devastation.

Thank you for your time and your leadership on this critical issue,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eunisses Hernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Eunisses Hernandez
Los Angeles Councilmember, 1st District