

Communication from Public

Name: Jasmine

Date Submitted: 04/18/2024 04:29 PM

Council File No: 21-0600-S101

Comments for Public Posting: Hi! I'm a teacher and resident in council district 1 and I'm asking all council members to support my students and neighbors by dropping all evictions and providing rent forgiveness for tenants at the Hillside Villa apartments. Do not bail out million dollar landlords and support your consistently marginalized constituents that have greater need. Supporting Tom Botz will essentially evict multiple families and displace children from their homes, removing them of safety and stability. Protect our communities, and keep us housed!

Communication from Public

Name: John Williams

Date Submitted: 04/20/2024 11:41 AM

Council File No: 21-0600-S101

Comments for Public Posting: My name is John Williams, I work in District 10. In May 2022, City Council voted unanimously to use eminent domain to keep the Hillside Villa Apartments permanently affordable. It seemed, for once, that the city was going to show some vision and courage and stand up to an exploitative slumlord, as cities like Seattle and New York have done. Now, under the same council file, you are voting on a deal that was worked on in secret between the landlord and the Housing Department. Just "business as usual" in the midst of a housing crisis: paying a landlord millions to extend affordability for a few years. One place the City has innovated in this deal is in providing a way for the landlord to evict the very tenants who fought to make this extension of affordability possible. Tenants are being given a de facto rent increase in the form of a repayment plan that applies any rent payments they make to their debt first, gives them six years to pay five years of back rent, and charges them interest. Many details about tenants' obligations are not spelled out: legally dubious pet fees, storage fees, and parking fees are not explicitly excluded. For some, those total \$400 a month or more. In contrast, benefits to the landlord are spelled out to the dollar. Most tenants will owe about \$500 a month on the payment plan described in this report. This means they can easily fall far enough behind on rent to be evicted within two or three months. The amount of rent debt owed by tenants is under \$2M. In the context of a plan that transfers \$20M to a landlord, including \$5M in loan forgiveness, it is shocking that no effort was made to find funds to cancel tenants' rent debt. The deal also has no specific provision requiring the landlord to drop the 35 current eviction cases. These evictions were brought for evictions were brough vision requiring non-payment of rents the landlord has agreed to roll back. Therefore, I am writing today to demand that the deal be amended so that it actually fulfills the stated goal of protecting affordable housing. At minimum it should be amended to 1. Include a provision to cancel the tenants' debt that matches the generous terms given to the landlord for canceling his, much larger, debt. 2. Include a provision requiring that current evictions be dropped.