

Communication from Public

Name: Jenea McDonald

Date Submitted: 04/18/2023 05:14 PM

Council File No: 22-1545

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the City Council's Housing and Homelessness Committee to introduce a codified Right to Counsel for tenants facing eviction. The City and County have invested heavily in housing and services for the homeless, but the homeless count keeps going up. The city needs to keep people housed and prevent homelessness before it happens. A right to counsel ordinance would provide free legal counsel to all low-income tenants, along with additional services to make the right a reality. The services needed to implement a right to counsel include: - Legal representation for low-income families - Community education through workshops & clinics with targeted outreach to marginalized communities - Emergency rental assistance The City Council can halt the displacement of vulnerable families, stop the destabilization of our communities, and combat rising homelessness. I am calling to you to commit to our community and commit to a codified right-to-counsel.

Codify a Tenant's Right to Counsel

To Los Angeles City Council's Housing and Homelessness
Committee
From Jenea McDonald
Date 19 April 2023
Subject Lifted Eviction Moratorium

Over the past decade, the annual cost of living in Los Angeles has skyrocketed, pushing native Angelenos out and increasing homeless counts. Voters have indicated that housing is a priority, with Mayor Bass declaring a state of emergency at the beginning of her term. Despite increased investment on the part of the City and County, the homeless count has continued to rise in recent years.

This March, the Los Angeles City Council voted to uplift eviction bans for renters in Los Angeles, a move that is antithetical to the widespread efforts to address housing instability and homelessness. Now, renters are left vulnerable to displacement as they struggle to adjust to the cost of living in a 'post-pandemic' world.

I am writing to urge the City Council's Housing and Homelessness Committee to introduce a codified right-to-counsel for tenants facing eviction. The City has invested heavily in housing and services for the homeless, but the homeless count keeps going up. The City needs to keep people housed and prevent homelessness before it happens. A right-to-counsel ordinance would provide free legal counsel to all low-income tenants, along with additional services to make the right a reality. The services needed to implement a right-to-counsel include:

- Legal representation for low-income families
- Community education through workshops & clinics with targeted outreach to marginalized communities
- Emergency rental assistance

Angelenos deserve an opportunity to remain in the city they've built and warrant support from city officials in their pursuit of substantial tenant rights. The City Council can halt the displacement of vulnerable families, stop the destabilization of our communities, and combat rising homelessness. I am calling to you to commit to our community and commit to a codified right-to-counsel.

Jenea McDonald, USC MSW Candidate '24
jlmc dona@usc.edu
360-306-9541

