

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I am the Director of Organizing for InnerCity Struggle and am here speaking on behalf of our members who are tenants in Boyle Heights, Lincoln Heights, El Sereno, and East LA. The City of Los Angeles must affirm its commitment to develop and establish a Right to Housing framework that systematically dismantles decades of structural inequities directly affecting our Black and Brown communities. However, we cannot have a right to housing if at the point of losing housing, we don't have a Right to Counsel. We urge the City to codify the Right to Counsel as it seeks to implement is Right to Housing Framework. Make no mistake, a Codified Right to Counsel is a racial justice issue as evictions target people of color and low-income families. Low-income tenants, women of color, and families with children comprise a majority of tenants facing eviction. It is a well-documented fact that evictions disproportionately impact Black and female-headed households. Decades of analysis demonstrate that the higher the percentage of Black persons and children living in female headed households, the higher the eviction rate. Right to Counsel not only stops the eviction crisis, it will prevent the mass displacement of low-income people of color from their homes and neighborhoods. In California, 92% of Shriver clients spent more than 30% of their monthly household income on rent, and 73% spent 50% or more. The majority of Shriver clients within the Los Angeles cases (57%) were female, 45% were Latinx, and 30% were African American. Embedding the Codified Right to Counsel as a component of Right to Housing begins the paradigm shift in addressing homelessness at large. The Homelessness & Poverty Committee has an opportunity to implement prevention mechanisms (such as RTC, Tenant Anti-Harassment, and Eviction Defenses) in its framework Tunnel visioning in temporary solutions, such as shelters, drains resources from permanent housing and other resources without providing long-term solutions. When developing a Right to Housing Framework, we need to address Preservation & Protection, Street Homelessness, and Production & Creation of Affordable Housing. I urge you all to vote in favor of your constituents most in need. Protect tenants.