

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Once again, I ask that the city council vote to continue the city emergency order in its current form. Los Angeles is not like other cities that have ended their eviction moratoriums. We host the largest population of unhoused neighbors, and it is imperative that we do not allow this number to mushroom further. I am writing in to speak for many of us who do not have the capacity to write in. Many of us are suffering from many effects of the pandemic, from long covid, to loss of full employment, to trauma which incapacitates us. With the current geopolitical situation in Europe and its spillover effects on Los Angeles, we all will continue to feel the strain of an increasing cost of living. Ending the moratorium could be the tipping point that pushes the many vulnerable tenants I speak for onto the streets. Please measure the cost of what the city pays per unhoused person against what it would cost to keep them housed in their current housing. Then, please consider the additional cost of what it would cost the city to rehouse that person once unhoused. In his recent FOMC meeting, Fed Chair Jay Powell indicated the Fed will continue to buy mortgage backed securities, which will continue to squeeze housing prices higher. California has a shortage of houses for sale. The “days on market” metric is so high that it is eating housing affordability for renters.

To that end, I ask the council advocate to make sure the landlords get paid via Housing is Key and other programs as quickly as possible, with priority given to mom & pop landlords. I also ask that the council advocate for an extension of Housing Is Key funding beyond its current limit of March 2022.

At the moment that I am writing this, Omicron BA2 is on the rise in Europe and is projected to rise here in the States within weeks. This wave is anticipated to hit harder than the previous one, because the variant is more contagious and we have relaxed mandates that have been in place in order to keep everyone safe. Governments across the world have made the same mistake over and over again of relaxing mandates too early. Should the city emergency order end now, it would be very hard and costly to undo the effects of a sharp increase in our unhoused population. Those who are quick to call the pandemic over are showing their privilege. The crisis is very much alive, and those vulnerable

among us (poor, people of color, disadvantaged, unhoused) are the ones who feel its effects the most.

Thank you for your consideration.