

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jesse Pittman

**Date Submitted:** 01/27/2023 10:50 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0042-S4

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Downtown Women's Center is the only agency in Skid Row exclusively dedicated to serving women experiencing or with histories of homelessness. Each year, we support 5,400 women on their pathways out of homelessness, offering interim and permanent housing, workforce development, mental health care, and support for basic needs. The covid-19 pandemic brought to light the systemic gender and racial inequities in the workforce. Women, and particularly women of color, entered the pandemic worse off economically, thanks to gender pay gaps and occupational segregation. Prior to the pandemic, women in the state were employed at a rate 20% lower than men, and women of color continue to see lower rates of employment than white women. In the early months of the pandemic, 80% of job loss occurred in fields dominated by women, such as retail, education, hospitality, healthcare, and government. These workforce disparities have resulted in significant housing insecurity among women, as female-headed households are also more likely to be rent-burdened. We cannot end homelessness without addressing the factors that cause people to lose their housing in the first place. For these reasons, the Downtown Women's Center supports the passage of agenda items 12 and 13, permanently protecting vulnerable tenants from eviction for non-payment of rent less than one month and offering support for tenants forced to relocate due to increases in rent.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Enrique

**Date Submitted:** 01/27/2023 09:15 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0042-S4

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please do not be fooled by the false cries that 'vulnerable' tenants will be thrown out on the street if further protections aren't enacted. I have two tenants. One owns a beauty salon. During the height of the pandemic his business was affected tremendously by Covid. He paid us whatever he could. We were not eager to 'throw him out in the street' like tenant advocates and politicians are describing. We respected our tenant's efforts and appreciated that he was operating with integrity. After rent relief, he was finally able to catch up. Our other tenant, on the other hand, jumped on the opportunity to exploit the eviction moratorium. While he continued to work consistently, he did not pay rent for 3 years all the while claiming Covid. He purchased cars, new appliances, furniture, TVs as well as countless Amazon packages. On top of this, he tried to extort us for relocation fees when all we wanted was for him to pay his rent. He also consistently threatened to sue us for vague reasons: he never said what for. We did everything to please these tenants: we installed new kitchen cabinets, new floors, new windows, a new roof along with making repairs. I practically begged him to pay his 50% market rate rent. I told them we did not want to evict anyone. This, and after a 3 month mediation would not move the tenant to pay his rent. We had to begin the eviction process. We cannot keep bleeding money on repairs, property taxes (\$10,000/year), insurance, utilities, etc. Please stop the madness. Tenant advocates are short-sighted. They cannot see the damage this will cause to affordable housing. The city councilmember may see the damage but are interested in getting re-elected, so they will pander to tenants.