



August 17, 2020

The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall 200
N. Spring Street, Rm 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org

Re: Right to Counsel Ordinance / Program / Tenants Facing Eviction

Council File: 18-0610

Dear Councilmembers,

The East Hollywood Neighborhood Council is **in favor of Council File 18-0610**, as proposed by Councilmember Paul Koretz, which calls on the City of Los Angeles to create a Tenants Right to Counsel or Eviction Defense Program.

The 2020 LAHSA Homeless Count revealed L.A. housed more people than ever, yet our housing affordability crisis drove a net rise in homelessness. Additionally, due to COVID-19 related financial burdens, HCIDLA identified over 100,000 households that are at risk of eviction once the eviction moratorium is lifted. This could be of detriment to displacing more Angelenos than ever. The City of L.A. estimates that 30,000 eviction notices are filed each year, yet 90% of tenants have no lawyer present during court proceedings while 90% of landlords do. Most, if not all, of these households at risk due to the COVID-19 pandemic cannot afford legal representation when fighting their eviction cases. The proposed ordinance calls on the city to address this disparity by funding the legal fees of tenants facing eviction who cannot afford their own representation.

We strongly recommend that council has the City Administrative Officer revise their 12/1/2019 report with new recommendations immediately so that the pilot program can begin benefiting Angelenos who may be at risk of eviction due to loss of wages from COVID-19.

The East Hollywood Neighborhood Council **strongly supports funding legal representation for those facing unjust and unlawful evictions in order to prevent more of our neighbors from experiencing homelessness.**

Sincerely,

East Hollywood Neighborhood Council

CC:

Hon. Mitch O'Farrell Councilmember,
13th District Los Angeles
City Hall 200 N. Spring Street, Rm 480
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Hon. Nury Martinez City Council President
Councilmember, 6th District Los Angeles
City Hall 200 N Spring Street, Ste 470
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Mayor Eric Garcetti
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