

#### SEPTEMBER 2022

### LA City Council Housing Committee to Consider Phasing Out COVID Eviction Protections This Wednesday

On Wednesday September 14 at 3 pm, the LA City Council Housing Committee will be hearing a report from the Housing Department that also recommends ending protections on December 31st.

We cannot lift temporary COVID tenant protections that have kept tens of thousands of people housed without first implementing strong, permanent ones. Without adequate permanent protections, a phase-out puts tenants in



danger of losing their homes, and does NOTHING to address the housing crisis that existed well before the pandemic.

#### YOU NEED TO ACT NOW

Submit written public comment to the City Council file opposing the lifting of the COVID Tenant Protections. <u>Click here to submit your comment.</u>

Call in to testify to the City Council Housing Committee: Agenda Item #4 Wednesday, September 14 - 3:00 pm,

#### **Dial-in instructions**

Call 1-669-254-5252, use Meeting ID No. 160 871 1866, then press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID. Once admitted into the meeting, press \*9 to request to speak.

#### **LA City Council Housing Committee Members**

GILBERT A. CEDILLO, CHAIR
NITHYA RAMAN
MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
PAUL KREKORIAN
JOHN S. LEE

The Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) is <u>proposing</u> that will allow landlords to to evict tenants for not paying their rent even if they've fallen behind for COVID-19-related circumstances.

In addition, tenants living in rent-controlled apartments in the City of LA — buildings built prior to October 1978 and accounting for three-quarters of the apartment stock — will once again face rent increases the following year, in January 2024.

In addition, the proposal calls for the following eviction protections to end on December 31, 2022:

#### **Evictions for:**

Rent Owed Owner Occupancy Resident Manager Demolition & Removal from Rental Market (Ellis) Lease/Rental Violations for Pets, Additional Tenants, Noise

#### TIME TO ACT NOW!!!

Contact City Council Members NOW to REJECT the LA Housing Department Proposal!

Demand COVID Eviction Protections Are NOT Weakened or Eliminated & Should Actually Be Strengthened:

#### **LA City Council Members:**

The contact information comes directly for the City of LA web site. If emails bounce, call their office to request correct email address.

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Joe Buscaino - <u>councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org</u> - 213-473-7015



L.A. Housing Dept.'s Proposed Language to Evict Pets

**ASPCA Position: Oppose** 

# ASPCA Joins CES in Telling LA City Council to Keep Pets & Families Together!

If we don't <u>act now</u>, countless Los Angeles residents may soon find themselves having to make a heartbreaking decision: give up their beloved

family pet or lose their home.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Los Angeles City Council enacted an emergency order that protected tenants who acquired pets, even if a tenant's lease explicitly prohibited owning animals. Recently, the Los Angeles Department of Housing recommended that the city council reverse these protections, which could leave families with pets open to eviction or homelessness. Furthermore, if the city council proceeds with this recommendation, L.A.'s overcrowded and understaffed animal shelters will be flooded with animals who could have, and should have, remained in loving homes.

#### What You Can Do

At any moment, the L.A. City Council could act on this motion. Please use our form by <u>clicking here</u> to urge your Councilmember to allow companion animals acquired during the pandemic to reside in their current dwelling for the duration of the pet's life or for the duration of the current tenant's occupancy.

#### **Keep Families Together!**

Prevent Evictions of Tenants & Pets!

**Click Here to Send Letter to LA City Council** 



#### **Homelessness** is

#### on the Rise in LA

Homelessness is increasing in Los Angeles, according to new numbers out today. But officials say, the city's unhoused population would have been even bigger if it weren't for pandemic aid.

"An increase is an increase."



That's Larry Gross, executive director of the <u>Coalition for Economic</u> <u>Survival</u>. He doesn't buy the official optimistic take on these numbers.

"We should not be patting ourselves on the back for any type of increase in homelessness."

Gross' organization runs programs to help struggling renters. He says, all that pandemic relief has done for LA, in terms of homelessness, is kick the can down the road. With most of that relief either already dried up or expected to end this year, Gross says, LA's tight housing market and astronomical rents will catch up with it again, maybe in time for next year's homeless count.

**Click to Listen to Radio Report** 

#### LA County Homelessness Up, But Growth is Slowing



By Anna Scott - Sept. 8, 2022

More Angelenos are living unhoused this year than in 2020, but the increase is smaller than previous year-over-year jumps. Officials say that billions of dollars in pandemic assistance have slowed the number of people falling into homelessness in Los Angeles County.

LA's annual homeless count, released today, shows that 69,144 people now live on the streets, in shelters, and in vehicles within the county, up 4.1% from 2020.

Within LA city limits, the number of unhoused people is 41,980, a 1.7% increase over 2020.

Tenant advocates say they're already seeing an uptick in evictions. Larry Gross, executive director of the <u>Coalition for Economic Survival</u>, an organization that provides assistance to struggling renters,

says LA has only kicked the can down the road.

"Eventually this is all going to catch up to us," he said. "We should not be patting ourselves on the back for any type of increase in homelessness."



**Click to Read Radio Report** 



#### Los Angeles Times

by Summer Lin August 24, 2022

### Renters pay big fees every time they apply for apartments. California could change that

When would-be renters go apartment hunting in California, they often end up paying over and over again each time they apply for a unit.

The application fees can be burdensome, discouraging some renters from conducting a wide search and adding to the challenge of finding an affordable home.



To the disappointment of some renters groups, the Senate amended the bill to make it voluntary for landlords to accept the reusable reports, meaning apartment owners will still be able to order reports from their own provider, said Mike Blount, chief of staff for Assemblymember Christopher M. Ward (D-San Diego), who sponsored the bill.

Landlords can charge prospective tenants a screening fee of \$30 or more per application. Some tenant advocates, however, say the most recent version of the bill stops short of helping Californians find affordable housing.

"The watered-down bill is another example of the state Legislature failing renters of California and not responding adequately to the housing crisis we face," said Larry Gross, executive director of the

#### Coalition for Economic Survival.

Gross, whose organization runs a tenants rights clinic, said he's heard from Angelenos who say they can't afford to pay the credit report fees required in the application process. He doesn't believe tenants should have to pay for credit reports and said landlords should absorb the full cost.

"It's the scene out of 'Mad Max' for tenants trying to find apartments these days," he said. "By the time they put in an application, those apartments are already gone. Quite frankly, we haven't seen the worst of it yet, because there are still protections in the city of Los Angeles, and if those expire,



we're just going to see an avalanche of evictions and more people trying to find more rental housing."

**Click to Read Article** 

#### **KNOW YOUR TENANT RIGHTS!**

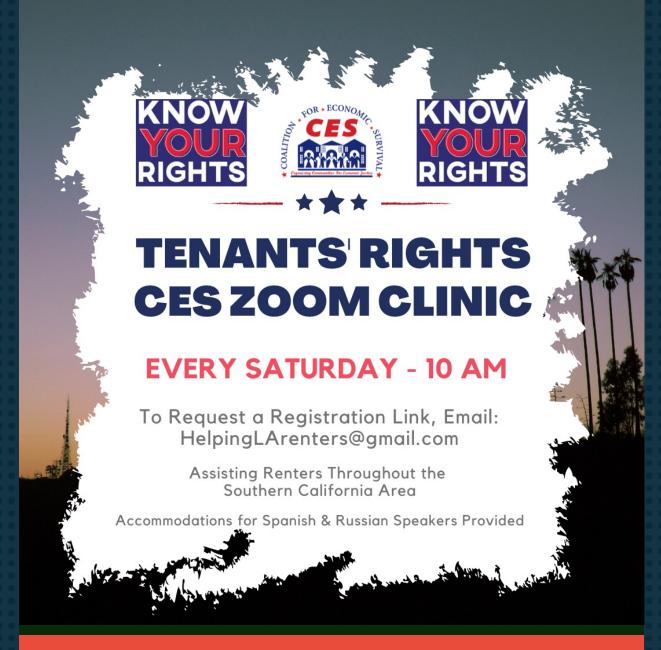
## ATTENTION ALL RENTERS! Attend the Coalition for Economic Survival Tenants' Rights Zoom Clinic

To sign up for the next Coalition for Economic Survival
Tenants' Rights Clinic via ZOOM
Request a Link by emailing:
HelpingLArenters@gmail.com

The Clinic serves the entire Southern California area. Accommodations for Spanish and Russian speakers are provided.

CES holds the Clinic **Every Saturday** via Zoom at 10 am. and every Wednesday at 6 pm for West Hollywood Renter To request a link to register for any Clinic email:

HelpingLArenters@gmail.com.



TO REGISTER > CLICK HERE

SUPPORT OUR WORK: CLICK HERE TO

**DONATE TODAY!** 

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE COALITION FOR ECONOMIC SURVIVAL

\* Secure tenants' rights

#### \* Preserve existing affordable housing \* Prevent tenant displacement

#### Show your support for CES' work by making a Donation Now!

The economic justice victories that CES has won over the years such as rent control in the cities of Los Angeles and West Hollywood, creating the city of West Hollywood and winning numerous laws to combat slum housing, secure tenants' rights and preserve affordable housing has only been possible with the generous financial support from people like you. 2022 marked CES' 49th Anniversary year. Help make it another year of victories by clicking here to donate now.

With us all facing this pandemic that threatens us both health-wise and economically, CES has committed to continue providing tenants with information and assistance on their rights. Clearly, COVID-19 has made this committment extremely challenging. It is why we need your financial support more than ever. We will persist!

#### Join CES, Donate to CES TODAY!

**DONATE NOW: \$3** 

**DONATE NOW: \$5** 

**DONATE NOW: \$10** 

**DONATE NOW: \$25** 

**DONATE NOW: \$50** 

**DONATE NOW: \$100** 









#### Coalition for Economic Survival

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