Testimony before City Council

September 19, 2024

Peter W. Peters

President Melendez and members of the Council, my name is Peter W. Peters. I am the Chair of REACH's Advocacy Team. Tonight, I am pleased to inform you that the whole Board of REACH supports the stronger version of Good Cause Eviction legislation. Letters to each of you have been handed to the clerk for delivery to your mailbox. Please be sure to read them.

Why is REACH supporting this stronger version of the Good Cause eviction bill. First, because we believe that housing is a human right, and we have heard too many stories of people with very low incomes being treated unfairly by unscrupulous landlords. We are not against landlords; in fact, we deal with many landlords in placing our guests in supportive housing. But we have also cared for people who are the victims of unfair practices.

Second, we believe that tenants deserve to feel safe in their homes and not face the threat of eviction due to unfair rent increases or the failure of the landlord to take good care of their property. It is the interest of the city and all of us to be sure that tenants are secure in their homes.

Third, we are concerned that children in households that do not feel secure in their homes have to deal with high levels of anxiety which effects their performance in school. In such circumstances these children are the victims of an unjust housing system. We can do better by our children.

Please read the story of Mary in our letter to you. No tenant should be treated in this way.

Please adopt the stronger version of the Good Cause Eviction law that is coming before you.

Thank you.