

Local landlord advocacy groups [In It Together](#), [East Bay Rental Housing Association](#) (EBRHA), and the [Business and Housing Network](#) all helped organize and attended the protest as well. They were joined by former City Councilmember Loren Taylor who gave up his District 6 seat to run for mayor last year.



John Williams, an Oakland property owner who's a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the city and county, speaks at the rally Tuesday. Credit: Amir Aziz

“This sent me to the hospital for stress,” said John Williams, a West Oakland duplex owner who said his long-term tenant stopped paying the monthly \$1,500 rent at the beginning of the pandemic, putting him at risk of foreclosure. Williams is a plaintiff in an [ongoing landlord lawsuit](#) against Oakland and Alameda County. At a [court hearing last year](#), he said he'd faced housing discrimination as a Black renter and bought the building to ensure he'd have stability as well as rental income.