



City Council agenda item 8 – eviction defense for wildfire victims

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Dear members of the City Council

In agenda item 8, you will be voting on a proposal made to you by the Pasadena Rental Housing Board.

The agenda item includes a memorandum dated February 27th states that there was a unanimous decision at the PRHB meeting on February 6th. However, the modified proposal being presented to you did NOT meet with unanimous agreement at the PRHB meeting of February 27th.

The modified proposal before you has an extended moratorium period of twelve months instead of the six months that had been unanimously agreed. This is much longer than the equivalent regulation agreed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and unlike the LA County regulation it contains NO proposal for funding the costs that will fall on landlords if tenants do not pay rent.

We urge you to approve an affirmative defense to keep fire victims housed, but with the following safeguards:

- 1) To set an initial period of six months as unanimously approved by the Rent Board on February 6th, which can then be extended if necessary;
- 2) To charge City staff with developing mechanisms to help landlords with the costs of managing without rental payments for an extended period of time;
- 3) To require more than “self-certification” of financial hardship by affected tenants, as this type of attestation was severely abused during the Covid eviction moratorium.

These changes will allow housing providers to continue to invest in Pasadena, rather than encouraging them to get out of the business altogether.

Respectfully

Pasadena Housing Providers