

April 2, 2019

RE: Support Tenant Relocation Assistance Policy to Prevent Homelessness

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

As members and supporters of Long Beach's Cambodian community, we thank you for your leadership in bringing forth a policy proposal that is critical to preventing homelessness: Tenant Relocation Assistance.

Nearly 60 percent of Long Beach residents are renters. Without safeguards like Tenant Relocation Assistance, hundreds of thousands of families and individuals—especially those facing any kind of financial hardship—are at risk of homelessness. **Tenant protections will help keep people in homes, increase housing stability citywide, and prevent homelessness.**

We know that there are several options for your consideration and would like to urge you to adopt the strongest policy possible. In particular,

- We strongly support both triggers for relocation assistance, and specifically, the trigger of a 10 percent total rent increase in any 12-month period.
- Under Applicability Requirement Options, Option 1 is the best option for preventing homelessness. Option 1's relocation assistance amounts, totaling \$5,500 and \$7,500, are closer than any other option to making a family whole when considering the enormous financial burden caused by moving (moving costs, security deposit, first and last month's rent, storage, time off work, child care). Option 1 also applies most broadly, providing the largest safeguard against residents falling into homelessness.
- Finally, the City must take a proactive role in monitoring and enforcing this policy to ensure that good tenants who are being forced to move actually receive their relocation assistance under the law.

Once again, we thank you for your leadership in bringing this policy forward. We look forward to supporting a strong Tenant Relocation Assistance ordinance as a key strategy to prevent homelessness in Long Beach.

Sincerely,

Caylee So, 9<sup>th</sup> District Resident  
Charles Song, Co-chair, Equity for Cambodians  
Laura Som, Co-chair, Equity for Cambodian  
Larry Sithal Sar, 9<sup>th</sup> District Resident  
Malynneath Vong, 6<sup>th</sup> District Resident  
Dr. Suely Saro, 6<sup>th</sup> District Resident  
Mea Lath, 7<sup>th</sup> District Resident