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**Sent:** Saturday, August 1, 2020 4:00 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Agenda item 20-0691 City Council Meeting 8/4/2020

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council members,

I have written previously about the importance of the moratorium on eviction from the standpoint of a concerned citizen living in District 6. I do not rent nor do I own properties for rent and thus write with no conflict of interest on this matter. As I see it—and as policy makers across California and this country see it—the moratorium on evictions should be extended at least another six months, and quite possibly a full year if there is not yet widespread vaccinating for Covid19. The joint health and economic emergency is unprecedented in any of our lifetimes.

Agenda item 20-0691 is sorely required, and extended the eviction moratorium to the fullest extent allowed by the State of California is a moral necessity.

The unemployment rate in Long Beach is still hovering near 20%. And it is not at all reasonable to expect affected renters to even have started recouping enough of their former income to resume sustainable payment of their housing expenses—and the dramatic increases in novel coronavirus infections and hospitalizations imply that the economic side of this crisis will in fact be getting worse. Renters need more certainty than such a short extension on the moratorium but it will have to do in the short term. Ideally the City Council should lead by example and impose a 6-12 month period of time, or at least until the local unemployment rate is brought down to (say) 10%, with no evictions allowed.

Certainly property owners are suffering, too, but they at least have their properties, which as investments are known to provide uncertainty and risk, while renters have nothing.

And while property owners will need to be made something close to whole again—and have their own versions of economic certainty—at some point other funds will have to be identified to support paying back missed rent at a level that will not place too much of the burden on renters who will by that time have lost many months of income. But that is for another day, a day when we are getting past this health and economic crisis.

The large number of Long Beach residents who are housing stressed—a population skewed towards people of color and the working poor—will be devastated by any resumption of evictions. And surely the Council knows that so many of those who will lose their housing will be added to the roles of the homeless—a situation both

inhumane and unnecessarily cruel to families and their children (something like half of the Long Beach homeless population currently are families).

I am shocked that any property owners that think that we are close to a time when the eviction moratorium can be allowed to terminate. Please extend the moratorium at least six more months—preferable a year—because we are still very much only at the beginning of the Covid19 crisis. *It is the least humane thing to do.*

Thank you,  
Daniel Kelson, PhD  
Carnegie Observatories, and  
Long Beach resident