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California State Senate

SENATOR
LENA A. GONZALEZ

THIRTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



July 23, 2019

Dear Mayor and City Council:

I am writing to express concerns regarding some of the proposed amendments to the Tenant Relocation Assistance policy under consideration at tonight's Council meeting.

As former Councilwoman for the 1st District and current State Senator for the 33rd District, I continue to represent a majority of Long Beach residents who will be impacted by this ordinance. Many residents experience severe housing costs and are in constant fear of being displaced or becoming homeless—at no fault of their own. The Tenant Relocation Assistance policy is intended to provide baseline protections for these residents most at risk, without putting undue financial burdens on small property owners.

The proposed exemption for landlords who provide 180 days' notice would fail to protect the city's most vulnerable residents and would cripple the effectiveness of the policy altogether. Six months' notice won't help residents living paycheck to paycheck or on a fixed income; tenant relocation assistance will. Additional exemptions for landlords who own two 4-unit properties or condominiums will only serve to exclude more residents from these basic protections.

While we don't know the scope of these potential impacts, the effect of the proposed exemptions is abundantly clear. They will be detrimental to residents who are already overburdened by housing costs and will undoubtedly force people out of their communities. If any changes are made to the existing ordinance, they should be in the spirit of strengthening renter protections—not weakening them—and they should apply to more residents—not fewer. Thank you for your consideration.

All my best,

LENA GONZALEZ
State Senator, 33rd District