



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Esparza

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 1/22/2021

Approved

Maya Esparza

Date: 1/22/2021

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF 2021 COVID-19 RESIDENTIAL EVICTION
MORATORIUM FOR TENANTS FINANCIALLY IMPACTED BY
COVID-19**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Accept Staff recommendations regarding the adoption of the 2021 COVID-19 Residential Eviction Moratorium for Tenants Financially Impacted by COVID-19.
2. Direct staff to return to Council with an extension/renewal of the Rent Increase Moratorium originally adopted by Council on April 28, 2020, and that this renewed moratorium be extended through the end of the local state of emergency declaration. Staff should explore options to make this moratorium retroactive to January 1, 2021 to prevent a gap in coverage for our vulnerable residents.

BACKGROUND

On April 28th, 2020, the Council adopted a moratorium on rent increases covering those apartments covered under the City's Apartment Rent Ordinance, as well as our mobile home parks, in order to provide relief for tenants facing dire financial situations due to the pandemic and resulting economic crisis. This moratorium had unanimous support from Council, and provided a critical layer of protection for our already overwhelmed tenants.

With the expiration of this ordinance last month, residents are already facing pending rent increases, and it is crucial that we renew this protection. We are facing the worst phase yet of this pandemic, and while we are hopeful that our new federal administration will continue to take significant action, experience has taught us that we are the final line of defense for our residents. For the thousands of families in our communities at imminent risk of eviction, continuing the rent increase moratorium is an obvious step to continue protecting our most vulnerable residents, and ensure that they remain stably housed through this crisis.

I ask staff to return to Council as soon as possible with an urgency ordinance and companion ordinance modeled after our prior rent increase moratorium, that will provide the same protections through the duration of the local state of emergency.

