



# ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Agenda Item\_\_\_\_\_ April 21, 2020

Chris Bazar  
Agency Director

April 16, 2020

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Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Administration Building  
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536  
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT: AMEND A COUNTYWIDE TEMPORARY MORATORIUM  
ON RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A. Amend an urgency ordinance enacting a temporary moratorium on evictions due to COVID-19 to create a moratorium on all evictions regardless of cause; and
- B. Amend an ordinance enacting a temporary moratorium on evictions due to COVID-19 to create a moratorium on all evictions regardless of cause.

**SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:**

On March 24, 2020, your Board enacted an urgency ordinance creating a temporary moratorium on evictions for renters and homeowners in the Unincorporated County (Ordinance No. 2020-14). On March 31, 2020, your Board amended the Unincorporated County Urgency Ordinance to extend its protections to the entire County. This Urgency Ordinance applied a moratorium on evictions to tenants, homeowners or mobile home owners who can provide documentation that they cannot pay their rent or mortgage due to a substantial loss of income, substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses, or extraordinary childcare needs caused by COVID-19. These actions were deemed necessary due to the COVID-19 public health emergency declared on March 4, 2020 by the State of California and on March 10, 2020 by Alameda County. The amendments before your Board this morning further amend both the urgency ordinance and the regular ordinance to extend additional protections, and better align both of them with city ordinances within the County.

The Community Development Agency's Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) worked to craft these modifications with County Counsel, Public Health, all cities countywide, Resources for Community Development, and multiple legal agencies including Bay Area Legal Aid, Centro Legal de la Raza, East Bay Community Law Center, and Housing and Economic Rights Advocates.

The amended Ordinance before your Board today includes the following key changes:

1. Expands to Include all Evictions: The Ordinance institutes a moratorium on all evictions during the local health emergency regardless of cause, with limited exceptions. The exceptions to this moratorium include an imminent health or safety risk; however, infection or a heightened risk of infection with COVID-19 is not an allowable risk. It is the burden of a landlord claiming their eviction action is not prohibited to prove an exception applies.

As stated in the ordinance previously passed by your Board, it is in the interest of public health to prevent any increase in homelessness and ensure residents are able to shelter in place. This change is necessary to implement this goal and protect the health and safety of County residents and for that reason, it was the primary amendment recommended by legal agencies.

2. Repayment Provisions: Tenants shall have twelve (12) months to repay overdue rent, unless the tenant and landlord can come to a mutual repayment agreement. The repayment period will ensure residents have a reasonable amount of time to become current on past rent. The amended moratorium will also create a permanent ban on evictions for this overdue rent, instead making the overdue rent a consumer debt. Without this provision, the County's eviction moratorium only delays a wave of evictions that will likely result from this crisis. By declaring that rent that becomes overdue during the public health crisis can never be used to evict a resident, landlords retain the ability to pursue the overdue rent as debt via small claims court, a payment plan or garnishing of wages.
3. Documentation Requirement: The proposed amended ordinance allows residents claiming COVID-19 impacts an extended period of time in which to provide documentation of those impacts upon request by a landlord: within 45 days of the landlord's request or 30 days of the expiration of the shelter in place order, whichever is later. The proposed amended ordinance also allows a sworn statement attesting to the existence of a COVID-19 impact as acceptable documentation. These additions make it easier for residents to claim the protections granted under this ordinance, especially residents who do not have immediate access to the required documentation or the ability to submit them.
4. Outlaw of Waiver: Tenants are not allowed to waive rights granted by this ordinance. This modification was included after legal agencies gave feedback that some tenants had been approached by their landlords with incentives if they were to sign away their rights granted by similar ordinances. It is the intention of the County to ensure all residents who qualify receive these protections.
5. Co-existence with City Eviction Ordinances: Cities that have passed eviction moratoriums may "opt out" of provisions of the County moratorium. Giving cities this option provides baseline protections for residents of cities without moratoria, but allows cities to make determinations in the best interest of their residents.

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If approved by your Board, this ordinance takes immediate effect and would cease to be in effect ninety (90) days from its date of adoption or the lifting of the emergency declaration, whichever is sooner; or by an action of the Board to extend the moratorium.

**FINANCING:**

There will be no increase in net county cost.

**VISION 2026 GOAL:**

A moratorium on residential evictions will support the overarching vision of **Thriving and Resilient Population** and the 10X goal of **Eliminating Homelessness** by ensuring all residents' basic needs are met, including facilitating access to and retention of safe, stable housing while building resiliency and self-sufficiency among vulnerable populations.

Very truly yours,  
DocuSigned by:  
  
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Chris Bazar, Director  
Community Development Agency

cc: Each member, Board of Supervisors  
Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator  
Melissa Wilk, Auditor-Controller  
Donna R. Ziegler, County Counsel  
Heather Littlejohn, Office of the County Counsel  
Jennifer Schulz, County Administrator's Office  
Sandra Rivera, Community Development Agency



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: President Richard Valle, District 2  
Vice-President Keith Carson, District 5  
Supervisor Scott Haggerty, District 1  
Supervisor Wilma Chan, District 3  
Supervisor Nate Miley, District 4  
Susan Muranishi, County Administrator  
Chris Bazar, Community Development Agency Director  
Michelle Starratt Housing and Community Development Department Director

FROM: Colleen Chawla, Health Care Services Agency Director  
Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Public Health Department Director  
Dr. Erica Pan, Interim County Health Officer

DATE: April 16, 2020

RE: Public Health Impact of the Countywide Eviction Moratorium

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ESP

On March 16<sup>th</sup> and then subsequently on March 31<sup>st</sup>, Alameda County along with five other Bay Area counties announced Shelter in Place Orders for all residents, directing approximately 6.7 million people to stay in their homes to curb the spread of the virus. Governor Newsom subsequently expanded Shelter in Place regulation statewide.

Since the Shelter in Place Orders, Alameda County has seen its residents, schools, businesses, organizations, and government agencies sheltering in place and increasing social and physical distancing. Shelter in place and physical distancing is necessary to reduce person-to-person contact, slow COVID-19 transmission, prevent health systems from becoming overwhelmed, reduce COVID-19 morbidity and mortality, and promote public health and safety for all.

Shelter in place is associated with socioeconomic impacts that we must mitigate in order for all Alameda County residents—regardless of their skin color, how much money they make, what country they're from, or what language they speak— to follow the Order. In a public health emergency of this magnitude, we are only as healthy as those who are most vulnerable and insecure. Income and neighborhood poverty can affect one's ability to shelter in place and maintain health and well-being—including how easy or difficult it is for people and families to work from home; care for and teach children during school closures; maintain household income; keep food on their table and a roof over their heads; and stay informed and adequately protected as situations rapidly evolve.

As many local businesses, community organizations, and recreational facilities have closed or substantially scaled back on operations, thousands of individuals now face unemployment, reduced work hours, and loss of income. Coupled with already high costs of housing and living, these factors

pose a serious immediate threat to residents and families already living from paycheck to paycheck and struggling to make ends meet.

Ensuring housing stability is essential to protect the health of Alameda County residents as the region responds to and recovers from the COVID-19 crisis. Loss of stable housing—through eviction, foreclosure, natural disaster, or other causes—poses numerous significant health risks, both for the individuals directly affected and for the larger population. Loss of housing disrupts a family's and/or individual's ability to shelter in place and practice social distancing, which increases the likelihood of disease transmission. In seeking new housing arrangements, displaced renters would have to travel and interact with others or may stay with friends and family in overcrowded conditions. These actions increase potential for exposure and conflict with recommended social distancing practices.

Loss of housing is also a leading contributor to homelessness. People experiencing homelessness face increased barriers to staying healthy during this pandemic. Homeless individuals live in environments that are conducive to a disease epidemic, including lack of regular access to basic hygiene supplies and showering facilities, all of which could facilitate virus transmission. They also face serious health issues due to their inability to isolate, quarantine, and recover. Governor Newsom has estimated that 60,000 homeless Californians could contract COVID-19 over the next eight weeks.

In the absence of a COVID-19 vaccine, public health measures—including testing, quarantine, and physical distancing—are the most effective methods we have to “flatten the curve,” reduce strain on our healthcare system and communities, and limit the spread of COVID-19. In order for these measures to be successful and protect the health of everyone in our county, we must also address structural issues such as the Bay Area's severe housing affordability crisis.

The Alameda County Health Care Services Agency supports strengthening the countywide eviction moratorium ordinance developed by the Community Development Agency and want to underscore the importance of robust emergency measures to ensure housing stability for low-income individuals and people experiencing or in danger of homelessness.

**ORDINANCE NO. O-2020- 23**

**AN URGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-2020-14, AS AMENDED BY  
ORDINANCE NO. O-2020-18 TO MODIFY THE TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON  
EVICTIONS DUE TO AND DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY  
IN THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

**SECTION I**

In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California makes the following findings:

1. On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency in the State of California related to the novel coronavirus that emerged in 2019 ("COVID-19"); and
2. On March 10, 2020, the County of Alameda ("County") ratified the County Health Officer's declaration of a local health emergency ("Emergency Declaration") as a result of COVID-19; and
3. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and
4. As of March 15, 2020, all eighteen (18) school districts within the County have suspended in-class instruction or closed all schools and as a result, parents and guardians are missing work to care for these children; and
5. On March 16, 2020, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office announced it would temporarily suspend evictions due to the COVID-19 health emergency; and
6. On March 16, 2020, the County of Alameda joined Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties and the City of Berkeley on an order directing their respective residents to shelter at home for three weeks beginning March 17 ("Shelter-in-Place Order"). The Shelter-in-Place Order also requires all businesses except essential businesses as described in the order to cease all activities at facilities located within the County except minimum basic operations and prohibits all public and private gatherings of any number of people except for limited purposes as well as all non-essential travel. These restrictions will reduce economic activity and as a result, household incomes during this time; and
7. Because of these impacts, many employers have laid off or will need to lay off employees, working County residents with children may be compelled not to work in order to provide care for their child(ren), and many County residents who are working and become ill due to COVID-19, or who must self-quarantine due to COVID-19 because they have been exposed to COVID-19, do not have paid sick leave; and

8. Those residents financially impacted due to COVID-19 may not be able to make timely rent or mortgage payments or be forced to choose between paying housing expenses and having sufficient funds for food, medical care or other necessities for themselves and their families; and
9. On March 14, 2020, the Alameda County Superior Court declared that all unlawful detainer mandatory settlement conferences for jury trials and jury trials currently set between Monday, March 16, and Friday, April 3, 2020 will be continued on a rolling basis for 3 weeks from the currently scheduled trial date, and, on March 16, ordered the stay of all evictions pending between Tuesday, March 17, 2020, up to and through Wednesday, April 8, 2020, the anticipated reopening of the Court, among other significant reductions in court operations; and
10. On March 18, 2020, the federal government announced temporary suspensions of certain foreclosures and related evictions to promote housing stability during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
11. As of March 18, 2020, there were 31 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County, as of March 26, 2020, there were 135 confirmed cases and two deaths, as of April 14, 2020 there were 962 confirmed cases and 36 deaths, and the number of documented cases is likely to increase as more effective, accessible, and proactive testing methods are introduced and community spread continues; and
12. As the response to the public health emergency has escalated, many County residents have been economically impacted from COVID-19, including, but not limited to lost business through the hospitality, retail, entertainment, and gig economies. Both large and smaller events across the Bay Area are being cancelled or postponed due to the Shelter-in-Place Order and recommendations at all levels of government to cancel large gatherings amid concerns over spread of the COVID-19. These cancellations and postponements cause loss in revenue for the event, as well as surrounding local businesses that rely on such events to bring in patrons to their businesses; and
13. After the World Health Organization officially declared the spread of COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020, stocks entered a bear market and fell more than 20%, and in the week ending March 14, 2020, workers filed 281,000 unemployment claims, an increase of 70,000 from the previous week; and
14. Displacement through eviction destabilizes the living situation of tenants and homeowners and impacts the health of County residents by uprooting children from schools, disrupting the social ties and networks that are integral to citizens' welfare and the stability of communities. It also creates undue hardship for tenants and homeowners through additional relocation costs, stress and anxiety, and the threat of homelessness due to the lack of alternative housing; and

15. COVID-19 poses a unique threat to people experiencing homelessness, who lack resources for sanitation, stay in overcrowded shelters, encampments, vehicles and other places, and already have a high rate of poorly treated chronic illnesses. In 2019, the Alameda County Point in Time Count estimated 349 people are homeless in the unincorporated area, an increase of 59% since the last count in 2017. The countywide increase was 47%; and
16. Such displacement, destabilization and any increase in homelessness would increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19 throughout the County by rendering it difficult or impossible for individuals to shelter-in-place and to observe social distancing and hygiene practices that are recommended to reduce the transmission of COVID-19; and
17. Pursuant to existing state law, specified evictions during declared states of emergency are illegal, specifically, Penal Code section 396, subdivision (f) provides: "It is unlawful for a person, business, or other entity to evict any residential tenant of residential housing after the proclamation of a state of emergency declared by the President of the United States or the Governor, or upon the declaration of a local emergency by an official, board, or other governing body vested with authority to make that declaration in any city, county, or city and county, and for a period of 30 days following that proclamation or declaration, or any period that the proclamation or declaration is extended by the applicable authority and rent or offer to rent to another person at a rental price greater than the evicted tenant could be charged under this section. It shall not be a violation of this subdivision for a person, business, or other entity to continue an eviction process that was lawfully begun prior to the proclamation or declaration of emergency"; and
18. Pursuant to Executive Order N-28-20 issued by the Governor of the State of California on March 16, 2020, the protections afforded by Penal Code section 396, subdivision (f) are in effect through May 31, 2020; accordingly, no new evictions of residential tenants meeting the conditions specified may be pursued until May 31, 2020 at the earliest, as a matter of state law; and
19. Pursuant to Executive Order N-28-20, any provision of state law that would preempt or otherwise restrict a local government's exercise of its police power to impose substantive limitations on evictions due to specified financial burdens caused by COVID-19 are suspended; and
20. On March 19, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing all residents in the State of California to stay at home except for essential activities during the COVID-19 emergency; and
21. On April 6, 2020, the Judicial Council of California issued emergency rules suspending court proceedings for unlawful detainer and judicial foreclosures until 90 days after the Governor declares that the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted; and
22. The County, pursuant to its police powers, has broad authority to maintain the public peace, health, safety and welfare for its residents; and



23. Pursuant to Government Code section 8634, during a local emergency, the Board of Supervisors may promulgate orders and regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and property; and
24. The California Attorney General has opined that when a county has declared a local emergency within its jurisdictional boundaries in an area that includes both unincorporated and incorporated territory, the county may adopt emergency rules and regulations pursuant to Government Code section 8634 that will be effective in both unincorporated and incorporated areas (62 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 701 (1979)); and
25. COVID-19 continues to spread rapidly throughout the community without regard to jurisdictional boundaries; and
26. Both the County's Emergency Declaration and Shelter-in-Place Order apply throughout the County, to both the unincorporated area of the County and within each incorporated city in the County; and
27. This ordinance is a temporary moratorium intended to immediately preserve the public peace, health, and safety by reducing the public's exposure to the transmission of COVID-19 by enabling tenants and homeowners throughout the County whose income, medical expenses or child care needs are affected due to COVID-19 to remain in their homes in accordance with the Shelter-in-Place Order; and
28. This ordinance is also intended to promote stability within the residential market in the County, including both the unincorporated and incorporated areas, during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and to prevent avoidable homelessness, thereby immediately preserving the public peace, health, and safety by reducing the public's exposure to the transmission of COVID-19; and
29. During the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, affected tenants and homeowners who have lost available income due to the impact on the economy or their out-of-pocket medical or child care expenses may be at risk of homelessness if they are evicted for non-payment as they will have little or no available income and be unable to secure other housing if evicted; and
30. This ordinance is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment) and pursuant to Section 15378, which defines a "project" under CEQA (the ordinance is not a "project" because it has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment).

## **SECTION II**

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda ordains as follows:

This urgency ordinance hereby amends Ordinance No. O-2020-14 of the uncodified Alameda County Ordinance Code adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 24, 2020, as amended by Ordinance No. O-2020-18 adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 31, 2020, to read as follows:

### **TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS DUE TO AND DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY IN THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

#### **1. Purpose, Intent and Scope.**

This ordinance is enacted for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. The purposes of this ordinance are to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, to promote housing stability during the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent avoidable homelessness. This ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety because the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential for destabilizing the residential market for the reasons described in the findings made by the Board of Supervisors in enacting this ordinance. This ordinance is intended to enable tenants, homeowners, and mobilehome owners in the County to shelter-in-place and avoid displacement during the COVID-19 pandemic. This ordinance is also intended to enable tenants, homeowners, and mobilehome owners in the County whose income, medical expenses, or child care needs have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to be temporarily protected from eviction for non-payment of rent or mortgage payments. This ordinance is intended to reduce the risk that these events will lead to anxiety, stress and potential homelessness for the affected residents and their communities thereby serving the public peace, health, safety, and public welfare. The temporary moratorium on evictions by this ordinance is created pursuant to the County's emergency authority pursuant to Government Code section 8634 and its general police powers to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, in addition to any rights and obligations under state and federal law.

#### **2. Definitions.**

- A. "Affected Resident" shall mean a Tenant, Homeowner or their Household, that has experienced a Qualifying Loss.
- B. "Homeowner" means the owner or owners of a Residential Unit subject to a mortgage or similar loan secured by the residential unit. Homeowner includes the owner of a Mobilehome.
- C. "Household" means all of the individuals residing in the Residential Unit with the Tenant(s) and/or Homeowner(s).

- D. "Landlord" means an owner, lessor; or sublessor who receives or is entitled to receive rent for the use and/or occupancy of any Residential Unit by a Tenant and the agent, representative, or successor of any of the foregoing. Landlord includes a Mobilehome park owner leasing spaces to a Mobilehome owner.
- E. "Lender" means the mortgagee of a purchase money or similar mortgage, or the holder or beneficiary of a loan secured by one or more Residential Units, which person has the right to mortgage or similar payments from the Homeowner as mortgagor, including a loan servicer, and the agent, representative, or successor of any of the foregoing.
- F. "Local Health Emergency" means the state of emergency declared by the County of Alameda or its authorized officers related to COVID-19 including but not limited to declarations by the Public Health Officer or the Board of Supervisors.
- G. "Mobilehome" means a structure transportable in one or more sections, designed and equipped to contain not more than one dwelling unit, to be used with or without a foundation system.
- H. "Notice of Termination" means the notice informing a Tenant or Homeowner of the termination of their right to occupy the Residential Unit in accordance with applicable California law, including but not limited to a 3- or 30-day notice to pay or quit.
- I. "Person" means an individual, firm, association, partnership, joint venture, corporation or any entity, public or private in nature.
- J. "Qualifying Loss" means substantial loss in income, substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses or extraordinary child care needs, resulting in a substantial hardship or inability to make rent or mortgage payments when due, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to any COVID-19 related declaration of the County Public Health Officer, or other local, state or federal authority.
- K. "Resident" shall mean a Tenant, Homeowner or their Household. This term includes but is not limited to Affected Residents.
- L. "Residential Unit" means a structure or Mobilehome or the portion thereof that is used as a home, residence, or sleeping place by one person who maintains a household or by two or more persons who maintain a common household, and which person or household pays rent to a Landlord or mortgage payments to a Lender for the use and/or occupancy of the structure or Mobilehome, or the space where a Mobilehome is located, for periods of thirty (30) days or more whether or not the residential use is a conforming use permitted under the Alameda County Ordinance Code, applicable city's municipal code, or other applicable regulations.
- M. "Tenant" means a residential tenant, subtenant, lessee, sublessee, or any other person entitled by written or oral rental agreement, or by sufferance, to use or occupancy of a Residential Unit.

**3. Moratorium on Evictions During Local Health Emergency.**

- A. Beginning on the effective date of this ordinance and continuing until thirty (30) days after the Local Health Emergency is no longer in effect, the County hereby places a moratorium on all evictions from Residential Units in the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County, subject to the exceptions stated below.
- B. No Landlord or Lender may evict a Resident, or otherwise require a Resident to vacate a Residential Unit, or retaliate against a Resident, while this section is in effect.
- C. Violation of this ordinance is an affirmative defense to any unlawful detainer action or other proceeding to recover possession of a Residential Unit.
- D. It shall be an absolute defense to any unlawful detainer action against a Resident that the Notice of Termination was served or expired, or that the complaint was filed or served, on or after March 24, 2020 and on or before the thirtieth (30th) day after the Local Health Emergency is no longer in effect, subject to the exceptions stated below. This defense may be raised at any time, including after the end of the Local Health Emergency and after the expiration of this ordinance stated in Section III, provided the notice or complaint at issue in the unlawful detainer action was filed or served during the period stated in this subsection.
- E. Notwithstanding any lease provision to the contrary, no late fees, fines or interest may be imposed for rent that became due during the effective period for this section.
- F. Exceptions. The Landlord or Lender claiming that their proposed eviction is not prohibited by this ordinance shall have the burden of proving that one or more of the exceptions applies. The provisions of this section shall not apply in the following circumstances, which must be stated by in the Notice of Termination and the complaint as the grounds for the eviction:
  - 1) A Landlord is taking the Residential Unit off of the residential rental market in accordance with Government Code sections 7060, *et seq.* (Ellis Act) and in compliance with any applicable local ordinances.
  - 2) The Residential Unit must be vacated to comply with an order issued by a government agency or court.
  - 3) Continued occupancy by the Resident poses an imminent threat to health or safety. For the purposes of this ordinance, the basis for this exception cannot be the Resident's COVID-19 illness or exposure to COVID-19, whether actual or suspected.

**4. Moratorium on Evictions Based on Nonpayment Caused by COVID-19.**

- A. Beginning on the effective date of this ordinance and continuing until May 31, 2020, the County hereby places a moratorium on evictions from Residential Units in the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County resulting from a substantial loss of income, substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses, or extraordinary child care needs, any of which are caused by COVID-19.
- B. No Landlord or Lender may evict an Affected Resident, or otherwise require an Affected Resident to vacate a Residential Unit or retaliate against an Affected Resident for nonpayment of rent or mortgage payments or for nonpayment of late fees, fines or interest based on nonpayment, while this ordinance is in effect.
- C. Violation of this ordinance is an affirmative defense to any unlawful detainer action or other proceeding to recover possession of a Residential Unit.
- D. It shall be an absolute defense to any unlawful detainer action against an Affected Resident based on a failure to timely make rent or mortgage payments that the Notice of Termination was served or expired, or that the complaint was filed or served, on or after March 24, 2020 and on or before May 31, 2020. This defense may be raised at any time, including after the end of the Local Health Emergency and after the expiration of this ordinance stated in Section III, provided the notice or complaint at issue in the unlawful detainer action was filed or served during the period stated in this subsection.
- E. Notwithstanding any lease provision to the contrary, no late fees, fines or interest may be imposed for rent that became due during the effective period for this section, if the rent was late due to a Qualifying Loss.
- F. If the Governor of the State of California extends the protections of Executive Order N-28-20, Paragraph 2, beyond May 31, 2020, the May 31, 2020 dates in subsections A and D of this section shall be automatically extended to the expiration date of said Paragraph 2.

**5. Procedures.**

- A. A Landlord or Lender must provide a copy of this ordinance and the following notice in at least 12-point font to Residents when serving Residents with a Notice of Termination:

“NOTICE: THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA HAS ADOPTED A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS DURING THE COVID-19 LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY INCLUDING EVICTIONS FOR NONPAYMENT OF RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS DUE TO COVID-19. A COPY OF THE COUNTY ORDINANCE IS ATTACHED. UPDATED INFORMATION MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM THE COUNTY’S HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AT [jennifer.pearce@acgov.org](mailto:jennifer.pearce@acgov.org) or 510-670-6474.”

- B. If the Residential Unit is located within the jurisdictional limits of a city which also has an ordinance protecting residents from evictions due to COVID-19 or during the COVID-19 emergency, the Landlord or Lender must also provide a copy of the city's ordinance with the Notice of Termination.
- C. To the extent feasible, Affected Residents should make a reasonable effort to notify their Landlord or Lender on or before the day rent or mortgage payment is due, or as soon as possible thereafter, of their potential inability to make a timely rent or mortgage payment due to a Qualifying Loss.

**6. Documentation – Required Only for COVID-19 Based Eviction Protections.**

- A. The provisions of this section apply only when an Affected Resident is seeking protection from eviction pursuant to section 4 of this ordinance due to a substantial loss in income, substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses or extraordinary child care needs, resulting in a substantial hardship or inability to make rent or mortgage payments when due, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to any COVID-19 related declaration of the County Public Health Officer, or other local, state or federal authority. Documentation is not required when a resident is seeking protection from eviction pursuant to section 3 of this ordinance.
- B. An Affected Resident's Qualifying Loss must be documented.
- C. An Affected Resident shall retain such documentation until such time as any back rent owed due to the Qualifying Loss is repaid or forgiven.
- D. An Affected Resident is not required to provide such documentation to the Landlord or Lender in advance to qualify for the protections of this ordinance. However, upon the request of a Landlord or Lender, an Affected Resident shall provide such documentation to the Landlord or Lender within forty-five (45) days after the request or within thirty (30) days after the County's shelter in place order is lifted, whichever is later.
- E. The following documents shall create a rebuttable presumption that the Affected Resident has a Qualifying Loss:
  - 1) Letter from employer or other source of income citing COVID-19 as a reason for reduced work hours, termination, or other substantial reduction in pay;
  - 2) Employer paycheck stubs showing a reduction in pay following the COVID-19 outbreak;
  - 3) Bank statements showing a reduction in income following the COVID-19 outbreak;
  - 4) Documentation showing payment of substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses caused by COVID-19; or

- 5) Documentation showing the closure of a school or child care facility where a child in the Affected Resident's care would otherwise be present during the Affected Resident's working hours; or
  - 6) A sworn statement by the Affected Resident attesting to the existence of their Qualifying Loss, including facts sufficient to demonstrate the Qualifying Loss, and attesting to their inability to gather the documentation described in (1)-(5) above.
- F. An Affected Resident may provide other documentation to demonstrate a substantial hardship or inability to make timely rent or mortgage payments caused by COVID-19.
- G. Any confidential medical information or other information protected by the Affected Resident's rights to privacy shall be held confidential by the Landlord or Lender and shall not be reproduced or distributed unless otherwise authorized or required by law.

**7. Retaliation Prohibited.**

A Landlord or Lender shall not retaliate against a Resident for exercising their rights under this ordinance, including but not limited to shutting off any utilities or reducing services or amenities to which the Residents would otherwise be entitled.

**8. No Waiver.**

The protections provided by this ordinance shall be available to all Residents, regardless of any agreement wherein a Resident waives or purports to waive their rights under this ordinance.

**9. Repayment of Back Rent.**

- A. Nothing in this ordinance relieves an Affected Resident of liability for unpaid rent or mortgage payments that became due during the effective periods of Sections 3.A. or D. or 4.A. or D. of this ordinance.
- B. In any action to recover possession of a Residential Unit from a Tenant based on nonpayment of rent, it shall be an affirmative defense that the rent became due during the effective periods of Sections 3.A. or D. or 4.A. or D. of this ordinance. This defense may be raised at any time, including after the end of the Local Health Emergency and after the expiration of this ordinance stated in Section III.
- C. A Landlord and Tenant may mutually agree to a repayment plan. Such plans remain subject to the prohibition on evictions based on back rent owed pursuant to Subsection B, above.
- D. If a Tenant does not repay the rent that became due during the effective periods of Section 3 or 4 within twelve (12) months from the date the rent became due, a Landlord may collect

the back rent as any other consumer debt. Such back rent may not be collected through the unlawful detainer process.

- E. In any action to recover possession of a Residential Unit, it shall be an affirmative defense if the Landlord or Lender impeded the Affected Resident's effort to pay by refusing to accept payments on behalf of Affected Resident from a third party, or refusing to provide a W-9 form or other necessary documentation for the Affected Resident to receive financial assistance from a government agency, non-profit organization, or other third party. This defense may be raised at any time, including after the end of the Local Health Emergency and after the expiration of this ordinance stated in Section III.

#### **10. Violation and Remedies.**

- A. Affirmative Defense. Each Landlord or Lender that seeks to recover possession of a Residential Unit must comply with this ordinance. Non-compliance with any applicable provision of this ordinance shall constitute an affirmative defense for a Resident against any unlawful detainer action under California Code of Civil Procedure section 1161, termination of tenancy in a Mobilehome park under the Mobilehome Residency Law (see Civil Code sections 798.55, et. seq.), petition for writ of possession, or any other action to recover possession of the Residential Unit or to otherwise cause Residents to vacate the Residential Unit.
- B. Misdemeanor. Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each person is guilty of a separate offense for each and every day during any portion of which any violation of any provision of this ordinance is committed, continued or allowed in conjunction with the Landlord's or Lender's activities with respect to the Residential Unit, Residents and Households and is punishable accordingly. For purposes of this section, each and every day of violation includes each day on which a failure to comply with this ordinance continues. No proof of knowledge, intent, or other mental state is required to establish a violation.
- C. Civil Remedies.
  - 1. Any Landlord or Lender that fails to comply with this ordinance is subject to a fine of \$1000 per violation. Each person is liable for separate violation for each and every day during any portion of which any violation of any provision of this ordinance is committed, continued or allowed in conjunction with the Landlord's or Lender's activities with respect to the Residential Unit, Residents, and Resident Households. For purposes of this section, each and every day of the violation includes each day on which a failure to comply with this ordinance continues. No proof of knowledge, intent, or other mental state is required to establish a violation.
  - 2. Any Landlord or Lender that fails to comply with this ordinance may be subject to civil proceedings for displacement of Residents initiated by the County or the Affected Residents.



- 3.. Any person found to have violated this ordinance shall be subject to appropriate injunctive relief and shall be liable to the Resident for damages, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees.
  4. Nothing herein shall be deemed to interfere with the right of a Landlord to file an action against a Resident or non-Resident third party for damage done to said Residential Unit. Nothing herein is intended to limit the damages recoverable by any party through a private action.
- D. Cumulative Remedies. The remedies provided by this ordinance are cumulative and in addition to any other remedies available at law or in equity.

**11. Application to Cities.**

- A. The regulations in this ordinance shall apply to cities within the County of Alameda and to the unincorporated area of the County, subject to subsections B, C and D below.
- B. If the governing body of a city has enacted an ordinance that has stronger protections for Tenants during the COVID-19 emergency, the city may apply its ordinance in lieu of the County ordinance, to the extent its ordinance is stronger, subject to the requirements of this section. The city must duly affirm or declare in writing its intent to opt out of the County ordinance. The writing must enumerate the specific provisions of the County's ordinance from which the city intends to opt out and must include a finding that the city ordinance is stronger.
- C. To the extent the city ordinance is not stronger, the County ordinance protecting Tenants shall apply despite contrary provisions or silence on the subject in the city ordinance.
- D. To the extent the city's ordinance is stronger for Tenants but not for Homeowners, the provisions of the County ordinance protecting Homeowners shall apply despite contrary provisions or silence on the subject in a city's ordinance.

**12. Severability.**

The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, clause, word, sentence or paragraph of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this ordinance.

**SECTION III**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 25123, subdivision (d), this measure is declared to be an urgency ordinance, to take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage it shall be published once with the names of the members voting for an against the same in the Inter-City Express, a newspaper published in the County of Alameda.

This ordinance shall be of no further force or effect ninety (90) days from its date of adoption, unless otherwise extended by the Board of Supervisors. This ordinance shall be in effect only during the time that an emergency declaration by local, state or federal authorities pertaining to COVID-19 is in effect and applicable to the County of Alameda.

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2020, by at least four-fifths vote, by the following called vote:

AYES: Supervisors Carson, Chan, Haggerty, Miley, & President Valle - 5

NOES: NONE

EXCUSED: NONE



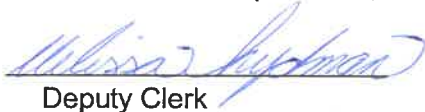
RICHARD VALLE

President of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,

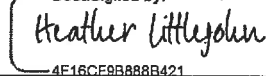
By:

  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DONNA R. ZIEGLER, COUNTY COUNSEL

By:



Heather Littlejohn  
Deputy County Counsel

**ORDINANCE NO. O-2020-\_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6.120 OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE TO MODIFY THE TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS DUE TO AND DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY IN THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

**SECTION I**

In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California makes the following findings:

1. On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency in the State of California related to the novel coronavirus that emerged in 2019 ("COVID-19"); and
2. On March 10, 2020, the County of Alameda ("County") ratified the County Health Officer's declaration of a local health emergency ("Emergency Declaration") as a result of COVID-19; and
3. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and
4. As of March 15, 2020, all eighteen (18) school districts within the County have suspended in-class instruction or closed all schools and as a result, parents and guardians are missing work to care for these children; and
5. On March 16, 2020, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office announced it would temporarily suspend evictions due to the COVID-19 health emergency; and
6. On March 16, 2020, the County of Alameda joined Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties and the City of Berkeley on an order directing their respective residents to shelter at home for three weeks beginning March 17 ("Shelter-in-Place Order"). The Shelter-in-Place Order also requires all businesses except essential businesses as described in the order to cease all activities at facilities located within the County except minimum basic operations and prohibits all public and private gatherings of any number of people except for limited purposes as well as all non-essential travel. These restrictions will reduce economic activity and as a result, household incomes during this time; and
7. Because of these impacts, many employers have laid off or will need to lay off employees, working County residents with children may be compelled not to work in order to provide care for their child(ren), and many County residents who are working and become ill due to COVID-19, or who must self-quarantine due to COVID-19 because they have been exposed to COVID-19, do not have paid sick leave; and

8. Those residents financially impacted due to COVID-19 may not be able to make timely rent or mortgage payments or be forced to choose between paying housing expenses and having sufficient funds for food, medical care or other necessities for themselves and their families; and
9. On March 14, 2020, the Alameda County Superior Court declared that all unlawful detainer mandatory settlement conferences for jury trials and jury trials currently set between Monday, March 16, and Friday, April 3, 2020 will be continued on a rolling basis for 3 weeks from the currently scheduled trial date, and, on March 16, ordered the stay of all evictions pending between Tuesday, March 17, 2020, up to and through Wednesday, April 8, 2020, the anticipated reopening of the Court, among other significant reductions in court operations; and
10. On March 18, 2020, the federal government announced temporary suspensions of certain foreclosures and related evictions to promote housing stability during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
11. As of March 18, 2020, there were 31 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County, as of March 26, 2020, there were 135 confirmed cases and two deaths, as of April 14, 2020 there were 962 confirmed cases and 36 deaths, and the number of documented cases is likely to increase as more effective, accessible, and proactive testing methods are introduced and community spread continues; and
12. As the response to the public health emergency has escalated, many County residents have been economically impacted from COVID-19, including, but not limited to lost business through the hospitality, retail, entertainment, and gig economies. Both large and smaller events across the Bay Area are being cancelled or postponed due to the Shelter-in-Place Order and recommendations at all levels of government to cancel large gatherings amid concerns over spread of the COVID-19. These cancellations and postponements cause loss in revenue for the event, as well as surrounding local businesses that rely on such events to bring in patrons to their businesses; and
13. After the World Health Organization officially declared the spread of COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020, stocks entered a bear market and fell more than 20%, and in the week ending March 14, 2020, workers filed 281,000 unemployment claims, an increase of 70,000 from the previous week; and
14. Displacement through eviction destabilizes the living situation of tenants and homeowners and impacts the health of County residents by uprooting children from schools, disrupting the social ties and networks that are integral to citizens' welfare and the stability of communities. It also creates undue hardship for tenants and homeowners through additional relocation costs, stress and anxiety, and the threat of homelessness due to the lack of alternative housing; and

15. COVID-19 poses a unique threat to people experiencing homelessness, who lack resources for sanitation, stay in overcrowded shelters, encampments, vehicles and other places, and already have a high rate of poorly treated chronic illnesses. In 2019, the Alameda County Point in Time Count estimated 349 people are homeless in the unincorporated area, an increase of 59% since the last count in 2017. The countywide increase was 47%; and
16. Such displacement, destabilization and any increase in homelessness would increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19 throughout the County by rendering it difficult or impossible for individuals to shelter-in-place and to observe social distancing and hygiene practices that are recommended to reduce the transmission of COVID-19; and
17. Pursuant to existing state law, specified evictions during declared states of emergency are illegal, specifically, Penal Code section 396, subdivision (f) provides: “It is unlawful for a person, business, or other entity to evict any residential tenant of residential housing after the proclamation of a state of emergency declared by the President of the United States or the Governor, or upon the declaration of a local emergency by an official, board, or other governing body vested with authority to make that declaration in any city, county, or city and county, and for a period of 30 days following that proclamation or declaration, or any period that the proclamation or declaration is extended by the applicable authority and rent or offer to rent to another person at a rental price greater than the evicted tenant could be charged under this section. It shall not be a violation of this subdivision for a person, business, or other entity to continue an eviction process that was lawfully begun prior to the proclamation or declaration of emergency”; and
18. Pursuant to Executive Order N-28-20 issued by the Governor of the State of California on March 16, 2020, the protections afforded by Penal Code section 396, subdivision (f) are in effect through May 31, 2020; accordingly, no new evictions of residential tenants meeting the conditions specified may be pursued until May 31, 2020 at the earliest, as a matter of state law; and
19. Pursuant to Executive Order N-28-20, any provision of state law that would preempt or otherwise restrict a local government’s exercise of its police power to impose substantive limitations on evictions due to specified financial burdens caused by COVID-19 are suspended; and
20. On March 19, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing all residents in the State of California to stay at home except for essential activities during the COVID-19 emergency; and
21. On April 6, 2020, the Judicial Council of California issued emergency rules suspending court proceedings for unlawful detainer and judicial foreclosures until 90 days after the Governor declares that the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted; and
22. The County, pursuant to its police powers, has broad authority to maintain the public peace, health, safety and welfare for its residents; and

23. Pursuant to Government Code section 8634, during a local emergency, the Board of Supervisors may promulgate orders and regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and property; and
24. The California Attorney General has opined that when a county has declared a local emergency within its jurisdictional boundaries in an area that includes both unincorporated and incorporated territory, the county may adopt emergency rules and regulations pursuant to Government Code section 8634 that will be effective in both unincorporated and incorporated areas (62 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 701 (1979)); and
25. COVID-19 continues to spread rapidly throughout the community without regard to jurisdictional boundaries; and
26. Both the County's Emergency Declaration and Shelter-in-Place Order apply throughout the County, to both the unincorporated area of the County and within each incorporated city in the County; and
27. This ordinance is a temporary moratorium intended to promote the public peace, health, welfare and safety by reducing the public's exposure to the transmission of COVID-19 by enabling tenants and homeowners throughout the County whose income, medical expenses or child care needs are affected due to COVID-19 to remain in their homes in accordance with the Shelter-in-Place Order; and
28. This ordinance is also intended to promote stability within the residential market in the County, including both the unincorporated and incorporated areas, during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and to prevent avoidable homelessness, thereby promoting the public peace, health, welfare and safety by reducing the public's exposure to the transmission of COVID-19; and
29. During the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, affected tenants and homeowners who have lost available income due to the impact on the economy or their out-of-pocket medical or child care expenses may be at risk of homelessness if they are evicted for non-payment as they will have little or no available income and be unable to secure other housing if evicted; and
30. This ordinance is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment) and pursuant to Section 15378, which defines a "project" under CEQA (the ordinance is not a "project" because it has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment).

## SECTION II

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda ordains as follows:

Chapter 6.120 of the Alameda County Ordinance Code is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

### **Chapter 6.120 – Temporary Eviction Moratorium for the Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas of the County Due to and During the COVID-19 Emergency.**

#### **6.120.010 - Purpose, Intent and Scope.**

This ordinance is enacted to promote the public peace, health, welfare and safety. The purposes of this ordinance are to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, to promote housing stability during the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent avoidable homelessness. This ordinance is necessary to promote the public peace, health, welfare and safety because the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential for destabilizing the residential market for the reasons described in the findings made by the Board of Supervisors in enacting this ordinance. This ordinance is intended to enable tenants, homeowners, and mobilehome owners in the County to shelter-in-place and avoid displacement during the COVID-19 pandemic. This ordinance is also intended to enable tenants, homeowners, and mobilehome owners in the County whose income, medical expenses, or childcare needs have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to be temporarily protected from eviction for non-payment of rent or mortgage payments. This ordinance is intended to reduce the risk that these events will lead to anxiety, stress and potential homelessness for the affected residents and their communities thereby serving the public peace, health, safety, and public welfare. The temporary moratorium on evictions by this ordinance is created pursuant to the County's emergency authority pursuant to Government Code section 8634 and its general police powers to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, in addition to any rights and obligations under state and federal law.

#### **6.120.020 - Definitions.**

- A. "Affected Resident" shall mean a Tenant, Homeowner or their Household, that has experienced a Qualifying Loss.
- B. "Homeowner" means the owner or owners of a Residential Unit subject to a mortgage or similar loan secured by the residential unit. Homeowner includes the owner of a Mobilehome.
- C. "Household" means all of the individuals residing in the Residential Unit with the Tenant(s) and/or Homeowner(s).
- D. "Landlord" means an owner, lessor, or sublessor who receives or is entitled to receive rent for the use and/or occupancy of any Residential Unit by a Tenant and the agent, representative, or successor of any of the foregoing. Landlord includes a Mobilehome park owner leasing spaces to a Mobilehome owner.

- E. "Lender" means the mortgagee of a purchase money or similar mortgage, or the holder or beneficiary of a loan secured by one or more Residential Units, which person has the right to mortgage or similar payments from the Homeowner as mortgagor, including a loan servicer, and the agent, representative, or successor of any of the foregoing.
- F. "Local Health Emergency" means the state of emergency declared by the County of Alameda or its authorized officers related to COVID-19 including but not limited to declarations by the Public Health Officer or the Board of Supervisors.
- G. "Mobilehome" means a structure transportable in one or more sections, designed and equipped to contain not more than one dwelling unit, to be used with or without a foundation system.
- H. "Notice of Termination" means the notice informing a Tenant or Homeowner of the termination of their right to occupy the Residential Unit in accordance with applicable California law, including but not limited to a 3- or 30-day notice to pay or quit.
- I. "Person" means an individual, firm, association, partnership, joint venture, corporation or any entity, public or private in nature.
- J. "Qualifying Loss" means substantial loss in income, substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses or extraordinary child care needs, resulting in a substantial hardship or inability to make rent or mortgage payments when due, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to any COVID-19 related declaration of the County Public Health Officer, or other local, state or federal authority.
- K. "Resident" shall mean a Tenant, Homeowner or their Household. This term includes but is not limited to Affected Residents.
- L. "Residential Unit" means a structure or Mobilehome or the portion thereof that is used as a home, residence, or sleeping place by one person who maintains a household or by two or more persons who maintain a common household, and which person or household pays rent to a Landlord or mortgage payments to a Lender for the use and/or occupancy of the structure or Mobilehome, or the space where a Mobilehome is located, for periods of thirty (30) days or more whether or not the residential use is a conforming use permitted under the Alameda County Ordinance Code, applicable city's municipal code, or other applicable regulations.
- M. "Tenant" means a residential tenant, subtenant, lessee, sublessee, or any other person entitled by written or oral rental agreement, or by sufferance, to use or occupancy of a Residential Unit.

**6.120.030 - Moratorium on Evictions During Local Health Emergency.**

- A. Beginning on the effective date of this ordinance and continuing until thirty (30) days after the Local Health Emergency is no longer in effect, the County hereby places a moratorium



on all evictions from Residential Units in the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County, subject to the exceptions stated below.

- B. No Landlord or Lender may evict a Resident, or otherwise require a Resident to vacate a Residential Unit, or retaliate against a Resident, while this section is in effect.
- C. Violation of this ordinance is an affirmative defense to any unlawful detainer action or other proceeding to recover possession of a Residential Unit.
- D. It shall be an absolute defense to any unlawful detainer action against a Resident that the Notice of Termination was served or expired, or that the complaint was filed or served, on or after March 24, 2020 and on or before the thirtieth (30th) day after the Local Health Emergency is no longer in effect, subject to the exceptions stated below. This defense may be raised at any time, including after the end of the Local Health Emergency and after the expiration of this ordinance stated in Section III, provided the notice or complaint at issue in the unlawful detainer action was filed or served during the period stated in this subsection.
- E. Notwithstanding any lease provision to the contrary, no late fees, fines or interest may be imposed for rent that became due during the effective period for this section.
- F. Exceptions. The Landlord or Lender claiming that their proposed eviction is not prohibited by this ordinance shall have the burden of proving that one or more of the exceptions applies. The provisions of this section shall not apply in the following circumstances, which must be stated by in the Notice of Termination and the complaint as the grounds for the eviction:
  - 1) A Landlord is taking the Residential Unit off of the residential rental market in accordance with Government Code sections 7060, *et seq.* (Ellis Act) and in compliance with any applicable local ordinances.
  - 2) The Residential Unit must be vacated to comply with an order issued by a government agency or court.
  - 3) Continued occupancy by the Resident poses an imminent threat to health or safety. For the purposes of this ordinance, the basis for this exception cannot be the Resident's COVID-19 illness or exposure to COVID-19, whether actual or suspected.

#### **6.120.040 - Moratorium on Evictions Based on Nonpayment Caused by COVID-19.**

- A. Beginning on the effective date of this ordinance and continuing until May 31, 2020, the County hereby places a moratorium on evictions from Residential Units in the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County resulting from a substantial loss of income, substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses, or extraordinary child care needs, any of which are caused by COVID-19.

- B. No Landlord or Lender may evict an Affected Resident, or otherwise require an Affected Resident to vacate a Residential Unit or retaliate against an Affected Resident for nonpayment of rent or mortgage payments or for nonpayment of late fees, fines or interest based on nonpayment, while this ordinance is in effect.
- C. Violation of this ordinance is an affirmative defense to any unlawful detainer action or other proceeding to recover possession of a Residential Unit.
- D. It shall be an absolute defense to any unlawful detainer action against an Affected Resident based on a failure to timely make rent or mortgage payments that the Notice of Termination was served or expired, or that the complaint was filed or served, on or after March 24, 2020 and on or before May 31, 2020. This defense may be raised at any time, including after the end of the Local Health Emergency and after the expiration of this ordinance stated in Section III, provided the notice or complaint at issue in the unlawful detainer action was filed or served during the period stated in this subsection.
- E. Notwithstanding any lease provision to the contrary, no late fees, fines or interest may be imposed for rent that became due during the effective period for this section, if the rent was late due to a Qualifying Loss.
- F. If the Governor of the State of California extends the protections of Executive Order N-28-20, Paragraph 2, beyond May 31, 2020, the May 31, 2020 dates in subsections A and D of this section shall be automatically extended to the expiration date of said Paragraph 2.

**6.120.050 - Procedures.**

- A. A Landlord or Lender must provide a copy of this ordinance and the following notice in at least 12-point font to Residents when serving Residents with a Notice of Termination:  
  

“NOTICE: THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA HAS ADOPTED A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS DURING THE COVID-19 LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY INCLUDING EVICTIONS FOR NONPAYMENT OF RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS DUE TO COVID-19. A COPY OF THE COUNTY ORDINANCE IS ATTACHED. UPDATED INFORMATION MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM THE COUNTY’S HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AT [jennifer.pearce@acgov.org](mailto:jennifer.pearce@acgov.org) or 510-670-6474.”
- B. If the Residential Unit is located within the jurisdictional limits of a city which also has an ordinance protecting residents from evictions due to COVID-19 or during the COVID-19 emergency, the Landlord or Lender must also provide a copy of the city’s ordinance with the Notice of Termination.
- C. To the extent feasible, Affected Residents should make a reasonable effort to notify their Landlord or Lender on or before the day rent or mortgage payment is due, or as soon as possible thereafter, of their potential inability to make a timely rent or mortgage payment due to a Qualifying Loss.

**6.120.060 - Documentation – Required Only for COVID-19 Based Eviction Protections.**

- A. The provisions of this section apply only when an Affected Resident is seeking protection from eviction pursuant to Section 6.120.040 of this ordinance due to a substantial loss in income, substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses or extraordinary child care needs, resulting in a substantial hardship or inability to make rent or mortgage payments when due, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to any COVID-19 related declaration of the County Public Health Officer, or other local, state or federal authority. Documentation is not required when a resident is seeking protection from eviction pursuant to Section 6.120.030 of this ordinance.
- B. An Affected Resident's Qualifying Loss must be documented.
- C. An Affected Resident shall retain such documentation until such time as any back rent owed due to the Qualifying Loss is repaid or forgiven.
- D. An Affected Resident is not required to provide such documentation to the Landlord or Lender in advance to qualify for the protections of this ordinance. However, upon the request of a Landlord or Lender, an Affected Resident shall provide such documentation to the Landlord or Lender within forty-five (45) days after the request or within thirty (30) days after the County's shelter in place order is lifted, whichever is later.
- E. The following documents shall create a rebuttable presumption that the Affected Resident has a Qualifying Loss:
  - 1) Letter from employer or other source of income citing COVID-19 as a reason for reduced work hours, termination, or other substantial reduction in pay;
  - 2) Employer paycheck stubs showing a reduction in pay following the COVID-19 outbreak;
  - 3) Bank statements showing a reduction in income following the COVID-19 outbreak;
  - 4) Documentation showing payment of substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses caused by COVID-19; or
  - 5) Documentation showing the closure of a school or childcare facility where a child in the Affected Resident's care would otherwise be present during the Affected Resident's working hours; or
  - 6) A sworn statement by the Affected Resident attesting to the existence of their Qualifying Loss, including facts sufficient to demonstrate the Qualifying Loss, and attesting to their inability to gather the documentation described in (1)-(5) above.
- F. An Affected Resident may provide other documentation to demonstrate a substantial hardship or inability to make timely rent or mortgage payments caused by COVID-19.

- G. Any confidential medical information or other information protected by the Affected Resident's rights to privacy shall be held confidential by the Landlord or Lender and shall not be reproduced or distributed unless otherwise authorized or required by law.

**6.120.070 - Retaliation Prohibited.**

A Landlord or Lender shall not retaliate against a Resident for exercising their rights under this ordinance, including but not limited to shutting off any utilities or reducing services or amenities to which the Residents would otherwise be entitled.

**6.120.080 - No Waiver.**

The protections provided by this ordinance shall be available to all Residents, regardless of any agreement wherein a Resident waives or purports to waive their rights under this ordinance.

**6.120.090 - Repayment of Back Rent.**

- A. Nothing in this ordinance relieves an Affected Resident of liability for unpaid rent or mortgage payments that became due during the effective periods of Sections 6.120.030.A. or D. or 6.120.040.A. or D. of this ordinance.
- B. In any action to recover possession of a Residential Unit from a Tenant based on nonpayment of rent, it shall be an affirmative defense that the rent became due during the effective periods of Sections 6.120.030.A. or D. or 6.120.040.A. or D. of this ordinance. This defense may be raised at any time, including after the end of the Local Health Emergency and after the expiration of this ordinance stated in Section III.
- C. A Landlord and Tenant may mutually agree to a repayment plan. Such plans remain subject to the prohibition on evictions based on back rent owed pursuant to Subsection B, above.
- D. If a Tenant does not repay the rent that became due during the applicable effective periods of Sections 6.120.030.A. or D. or 6.120.040.A. or D. within twelve (12) months from the date the rent became due, a Landlord may collect the back rent as any other consumer debt. Such back rent may not be collected through the unlawful detainer process.
- E. In any action to recover possession of a Residential Unit, it shall be an affirmative defense if the Landlord or Lender impeded the Affected Resident's effort to pay by refusing to accept payments on behalf of Affected Resident from a third party, or refusing to provide a W-9 form or other necessary documentation for the Affected Resident to receive financial assistance from a government agency, non-profit organization, or other third party. This defense may be raised at any time, including after the end of the Local Health Emergency and after the expiration of this ordinance stated in Section III.

#### **6.120.100 - Violation and Remedies.**

- A. Affirmative Defense. Each Landlord or Lender that seeks to recover possession of a Residential Unit must comply with this ordinance. Non-compliance with any applicable provision of this ordinance shall constitute an affirmative defense for a Resident against any unlawful detainer action under California Code of Civil Procedure section 1161, termination of tenancy in a Mobilehome park under the Mobilehome Residency Law (see Civil Code sections 798.55, et. seq.), petition for writ of possession, or any other action to recover possession of the Residential Unit or to otherwise cause Residents to vacate the Residential Unit.
- B. Misdemeanor. Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each person is guilty of a separate offense for each and every day during any portion of which any violation of any provision of this ordinance is committed, continued or allowed in conjunction with the Landlord's or Lender's activities with respect to the Residential Unit, Residents and Households and is punishable accordingly. For purposes of this section, each and every day of violation includes each day on which a failure to comply with this ordinance continues. No proof of knowledge, intent, or other mental state is required to establish a violation.
- C. Civil Remedies.
  - 1. Any Landlord or Lender that fails to comply with this ordinance is subject to a fine of \$1000 per violation. Each person is liable for separate violation for each and every day during any portion of which any violation of any provision of this ordinance is committed, continued or allowed in conjunction with the Landlord's or Lender's activities with respect to the Residential Unit, Residents, and Resident Households. For purposes of this section, each and every day of the violation includes each day on which a failure to comply with this ordinance continues. No proof of knowledge, intent, or other mental state is required to establish a violation.
  - 2. Any Landlord or Lender that fails to comply with this ordinance may be subject to civil proceedings for displacement of Residents initiated by the County or the Affected Residents.
  - 3. Any person found to have violated this ordinance shall be subject to appropriate injunctive relief and shall be liable to the Resident for damages, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees.
  - 4. Nothing herein shall be deemed to interfere with the right of a Landlord to file an action against a Resident or non-Resident third party for damage done to said Residential Unit. Nothing herein is intended to limit the damages recoverable by any party through a private action.
- D. Cumulative Remedies. The remedies provided by this ordinance are cumulative and in addition to any other remedies available at law or in equity.

#### **6.120.110 - Application to Cities.**

- A. The regulations in this ordinance shall apply to cities within the County of Alameda and to the unincorporated area of the County, subject to subsections B, C and D below.
- B. If the governing body of a city has enacted an ordinance that substantially protects Tenants from evictions during the COVID-19 emergency, the city may apply its ordinance in lieu of the County ordinance, subject to the requirements of this section. The city must duly affirm or declare in writing its intent to opt out of the County ordinance. The writing must enumerate the specific provisions of the County's ordinance from which the city intends to opt out and must include a finding that the city ordinance meets all of the following criteria. The city ordinance must include, at minimum, the following protections for Tenants:
  - 1) Requirement that service of eviction notices must include specific language to Tenants notifying them of the city's ordinance or regulation;
  - 2) Limitation on the impact and effect of eviction notices served during the COVID-19 emergency or provision of an affirmative defense to an unlawful detainer action based on such an eviction notice; and
  - 3) Limitation on advance notification or documentation burdens for Tenants prior to the filing of unlawful detainer actions.
- C. If the city ordinance does not include the minimum protections described in Section 6.120.110.B.1)-3) above, the County ordinance protecting Tenants shall apply despite contrary provisions or silence on the subject in the city ordinance.
- D. If a city's ordinance provides the minimum protections described in Section 6.120.110.B.1)-3) above for Tenants but not for Homeowners, the provisions of the County ordinance protecting Homeowners shall apply despite contrary provisions or silence on the subject in a city's ordinance.

#### **6.120.120 - Severability.**

The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, clause, word, sentence or paragraph of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this ordinance.

### **SECTION III**

This ordinance shall be in force thirty (30) days after its passage and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage it shall be published once with the names of the members voting for an against the same in the Inter-City Express, a newspaper published in the County of Alameda.

This ordinance shall be of no further force or effect ninety (90) days from its date of adoption, unless otherwise extended by the Board of Supervisors. This ordinance shall be in effect only during the time that an emergency declaration by local, state or federal authorities pertaining to COVID-19 is in effect and applicable to the County of Alameda.

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California, on the \_\_\_\_ day of April, 2020, by at least four-fifths vote, by the following called vote:

AYES:

NOES:

EXCUSED:

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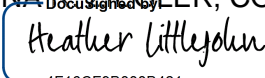
RICHARD VALLE  
President of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
DONNA R. ZIEGLER, COUNTY COUNSEL

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Littlejohn  
Deputy County Counsel

DocuSigned by  
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