



2015 SEP 24 PM 2:15

1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

94612

REBECCA KAPLAN
Vice Mayor
atlarge@oaklandnet.com

(510) 238-7008
FAX: (510) 238-6910
TDD: (510) 839-6451

September 24, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

The City of Oakland is facing a serious affordable housing crisis, with numerous residents being displaced from their homes. I believe it is essential that we take action to protect residents who are at risk of losing their homes and need affordable housing.

The displacement crisis is tearing families and communities apart. In many cases people are being kicked out of their homes in ways that are illegal. Oakland has laws on the books that protect tenants from unjust evictions, but many residents do not know about these laws and they are not adequately enforced. In some cases, tenants are being kicked out as a result of fake "owner move in" evictions. In other cases, they are simply being told they must leave and many tenants do not have the resources to fight wrongful evictions.

Meanwhile, when tenants are forced to relocate, they are, in some cases, given no relocation assistance funds, and in other cases, given an amount that is far too low to be able to cover the costs of relocating. The inadequate relocation requirements also encourage more evictions and cause more suffering by tenants.

Therefore, I urge that we take the following actions to immediately address the displacement crisis in Oakland:

- 1) Amend our relocation assistance requirements to cover the real costs that tenants face when forced to move and adopt an amended ordinance to increase the required relocation assistance amount, and applying it more consistently;
- 2) Fund a community based outreach strategy to provide public education about laws protecting tenants' rights; and support enforcement strategies that will provide the enforcement of laws protecting tenants' rights, discourage unjust evictions, and reduce violations;
- 3) Promote rapid rehousing for those in danger of homelessness by funding a rental assistance program to enable people to pay first month, last month, and security deposit.

We should take this opportunity at our special housing hearing on September 30, to plan for action as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca Kaplan".

Rebecca Kaplan
Vice-Mayor of Oakland