



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember At-Large
Rebecca Kaplan

SUBJECT: Ordinance to Amend the Code
Enforcement Relocation Program -
Emergency Finding Addendum

DATE: January 23, 2016

RECOMMENDATION

Councilmember Kaplan recommends that the City Council adopt an emergency ordinance to amend the Code Enforcement Relocation Program, O.M.C. Chapter 15.60, to: (1) increase relocation payments for tenants displaced for code compliance repairs; (2) redefine tenant eligibility for relocation payments to expand eligibility for such payments; and (3) enhance penalty provisions and remedies for violations of O.M.C. Chapter 15.60.

EMERGENCY FINDING

Pursuant to City Charter Section 213, the City Council may introduce and adopt an emergency ordinance at the same City Council meeting by an affirmative six votes of the council.

The City of Oakland has been experiencing a severe housing crisis that threatens the public peace, health, welfare, and diversity of our citizenry. Long-term Oakland residents are being displaced daily, and many cannot afford to relocate in our City.

This housing crisis has been exacerbated in the wake of the "Ghost Ship" fire, where 36 young people tragically lost their lives. Since then, many tenants living in noncompliant units have reported receiving eviction notices or facing imminent displacement, and there are widespread fears throughout the community that this displacement pressure will continue as efforts to address code issues in housing remain in the spotlight.

If City Council does not enact an emergency ordinance amending the Code Enforcement Relocation Program, O.M.C. Chapter 15.60, tenants displaced due to code enforcement repairs will bear the economic burden for relocation and its associated hardships, and could become at risk of homelessness, job loss, or being pushed out of the City. Accordingly, the City desires to further the public peace, health, safety and welfare by increasing relocation payments for tenants displaced for code compliance repairs.

In a press release sent on January 11, 2017, Mayor Schaaf urged City Council "to approve Councilmember Kaplan's amendments to the Code Enforcement Relocation Program Ordinance as an Emergency Ordinance so these enhanced protections can take effect as soon as possible." If the City Council does not enact an emergency ordinance implementing the above measures, in the time after a non-emergency ordinance was introduced, received a second reading, and became effective, many tenants could be subject to displacement without

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adequate compensation to offset their relocation costs, furthering the need for the Council to enact an emergency ordinance that is effective immediately.

For questions regarding this addendum, please contact Laura Holtan, Policy and Legislative Director for Councilmember Kaplan, at 510-238-7081.