

Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS AND
COUNCILMEMBERS DAN KALB AND CARROLL FIFE**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING AB 15, THE TENANT STABILIZATION ACT OF
2021, AND URGING GOVERNOR NEWSOM AND THE CALIFORNIA STATE
LEGISLATURE TO PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 15 WITH URGENCY, WITHOUT
PREEMPTION OF CRITICAL LOCAL PROTECTIONS, ALLOWING CITY
AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND STABILIZE THEIR COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, COVID-19 infections and deaths are reaching record highs across California, including in Alameda County, where as of January 14, 2021, 62,943 people have tested positive for COVID-19 and 776 people have died; and

WHEREAS, a large number of renters, 55% in California, have experienced some loss of employment income since the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent stay-at-home orders began, which in the aggregate, translates to one quarter of the State's residents; and

WHEREAS, 25.5% of California renter households and 17.4% of California property owners are behind on their rent and mortgage payments according to the Turner Center at UC Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of those who have suffered job and income loss are people of color and women; and

WHEREAS, Oakland, California, and the United States face an escalating eviction and debt crisis, with a UCLA study attributing 10,000 COVID-19 deaths and 400,000 infections directly to eviction; and

WHEREAS, at least 151,000 people are homeless in California and approximately 4,000 individuals are homeless in Oakland, with multiple cities declaring homelessness a local emergency, and rising unemployment combined with a lack of eviction protections and small homeowner assistance will only further exacerbate the homelessness crisis; and

WHEREAS, the public health and socioeconomic stability of Oakland is facing an unprecedented test, and city and county governments need every available tool to respond locally to the specific issues their communities face; and

WHEREAS, the eviction moratorium in Assembly Bill 3088, the legislation passed in the California State Legislature and signed by Governor Newsom on August 31, 2020, to protect renters who cannot pay their rent in full due to COVID-related hardship, expires on January 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 3088 also prohibits owners from recovering COVID-19 rental debt in small claims court before March 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 15, authored by Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco) and supported by dozens of state legislators and hundreds of tenant, affordable housing, labor and social justice groups across the state, will extend AB 3088's eviction moratorium until December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 15 will extend the prohibition on recovery of COVID-19 rental debt until January 1, 2022, or the end of a local jurisdiction's repayment period, whichever is later; and

WHEREAS, as currently drafted, AB 15 does not limit the ability of cities and counties to further protect our residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby endorses AB 15, The Tenant Stabilization Act Of 2021, and urges Governor Newsom and the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 15 with urgency, without preemption of critical local protections, allowing city and county governments to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and stabilize the communities they represent; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby directs the City Clerk to convey a copy of the Resolution to the State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
Acting City Clerk and Clerk of the
Council of the City of Oakland, California