



CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY VICE MAYOR REBECCA KAPLAN & COUNCIL PRESIDENT
NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
THE TREASURY, GOVERNOR NEWSOM, AND THE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO
FULLY COVER ALL PENDING QUALIFIED EMERGENCY RENTAL
ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS**

WHEREAS, the long-standing housing affordability crisis in California intensified in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic sparked an economic and public health crisis that threatened the housing stability and lives of millions of renters. Throughout the past two years, low-income renters who struggled before the COVID-19 crisis were put in an even more tenuous position to pay rent due to job loss and increased expenses; and

WHEREAS, 709,000 households are currently behind on rent in California, their total rent debt totaling approximately \$2.5 billion based on analyses of rent relief distributions from the US Treasury Report and Census Household Pulse Survey Data through August 2022; and

WHEREAS, in response to the growing need to support renters, help avoid financial hardships in our communities for small landlords, and prevent skyrocketing displacement and homelessness, the Federal and State governments allocated funding to establish rental assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland has applied for Emergency Rental Assistance Program funding (ERAP), provided by the US Department of Treasury, to financially assist Oakland low-income renters. During the first round of allocations, ERAP I, the City received \$12,874,764; during the second round, ERAP II, the City received \$19,644,850.30; and the City also received \$12,077,713.52 from Round 2 of the California Housing & Community Development State Rental Assistance Program (SRA2); and

WHEREAS, the City adopted Resolution No. 89143 to authorize the City Administrator to apply for, accept, and appropriate funds under a State Housing and Community Development (HCD) Cashflow Loan Program of \$20 million; and

WHEREAS, as of mid-October 2022, there were approximately 2,900 remaining waitlist applications to process, and a total of \$9.5 to \$10.5 million to pay out for all waitlist applications; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom announced on October 17th, 2022, that the COVID-19 State of Emergency in California will end on February 28, 2023; and

WHEREAS, ensuring timely payment of outstanding rent is vital for the housing stability of many Families and to reduce suffering and waves of evictions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council calls upon the US Department of the Treasury, Governor, and California Department of Housing and Community Development to rapidly and fully cover all pending qualified emergency rental assistance applications; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That Oakland's lobbyist share this resolution with relevant Federal staff and State staff to prevent evictions, displacement, and economic suffering.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____

ASHA REED

City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California