

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER KALB AND COUNCILMEMBER FIFE

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY BILL 1487
THAT WOULD ESTABLISH THE HOMELESS PREVENTION FUND UNDER
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND
COMMISSION TO FUND PRESCRIBED LEGAL SERVICES, EDUCATION,
AND OUTREACH FOR TENANTS RELATING TO EVICTION OR
DISPLACEMENT**

WHEREAS, evictions and displacement are a major factor contributing to California's homelessness crisis; and

WHEREAS, data has shown that evictions are not only caused by economic hardships, but are themselves a root cause of poverty and homelessness. Securing housing is often much more difficult following an eviction. Nearly 50% of homeless adults list evictions or rent-related issues as a contributor to their homelessness; and

WHEREAS, representation in the judicial eviction process is extremely unbalanced. Ninety percent of landlords nationwide benefit from legal representation while only 10 percent of tenants are able to secure a lawyer; and

WHEREAS, in California, the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act has funded legal services and representation for low-income parties and such services has drastically improved outcomes and demonstrated economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, a study of a proposed Right to Counsel program in the City of Los Angeles found that for every \$1 invested, the program would generate returns of approximately \$3.48 to the City of Los Angeles and \$4.80 to the County of Los Angeles primarily by avoiding the public costs related to shelter and housing programs, school funding, health care and foster care; and

WHEREAS, an evaluation of the City of San Francisco's Right to Counsel program found that 67% of tenants who received representation through that program were able to stay in their homes, including 80% of African American tenants; and

WHEREAS, AB 1487 (Gabriel) will create the Homelessness Prevention Fund to administer funding to local eviction defense programs. These programs include education, outreach and legal services to prevent eviction or displacement for low-income tenants; and

WHEREAS, this statewide eviction defense program will target tenants who are most at risk of falling into homelessness; and

WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill 1487 introduced by Assembly Members Gabriel, Chiu and Santiago and co-authored by Assembly Members Kalra, Lee and Wicks, and Senators Allen, Durazo, Skinner, and Wiener would establish the Homeless Prevention Fund to fund legal services, education and outreach for tenants relating to eviction and displacement; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby endorses AB 1487 and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom to support its enactment into law.

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