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EBHO Supports Tenant Protections in Antioch

1 message

Alex Werth <alex@ebho.org>

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To: cityclerk@ci.antioch.ca.us

Cc: lthorpe@ci.antioch.ca.us, mbarbanica@antiochca.gov, twalker@antiochca.gov, logorchock@ci.antioch.ca.us, mwilson@ci.antioch.ca.us

Bcc: grover@ebho.org

Dear Members of the City Council,

On behalf of East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO), I'm writing to request that you work with staff to bring back a suite of tenant protection ordinances as soon as possible. Antioch renters were already struggling under the weight of displacement pressure prior to the pandemic. In many cases, families have been hanging on through desperate situations. So we ask you to move with the quickness and commitment that these circumstances require.

EBHO is a non-profit, member-driven organization that works to preserve, protect, and create affordable housing opportunities for low-income communities across Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. We know that the most effective, most cost efficient, and--frankly--least traumatic way to secure affordable housing opportunities is to keep families in their homes in the first place. Tenant protections are the key to stopping housing insecurity, displacement, and homelessness before they start. Given the East Bay and Antioch's deep shortage of non-profit affordable housing, it's especially critical that localities extend common sense protections to low-income renters living in unsubsidized rental homes. Without those protections, our neighbors are left exposed to a raft of loopholes in AB 1482--in terms of both the letter of the law and its enforcement--that make them vulnerable to unfair rent increases, no-fault evictions, and intimidation on the part of those landlords who act in bad faith.

Antioch renters need and deserve better. That's why we fully support local measures to enact rent control, just cause eviction protections, and rights for tenants so that they don't experience landlord harassment. Our 35+ years of experience standing alongside low-income communities in East Bay cities with tenant protections, like Oakland and Berkeley, shows that all three of these ordinances are needed to reinforce one another and effectively protect renters. Without any one, bad-actor landlords can find ways around the others. But when all three are in effect, then the community can ensure that our neighbors who rent their homes have a chance to put down or maintain their roots, contributing to the stability of Antioch as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration and action.

Alex Werth, Policy Manager, East Bay Housing Organizations