

ORDINANCE NO. 20-O- 2806

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS ADOPTING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS RELATED TO RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL TENANT EVICTIONS, AND OTHER MEASURES, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 20-O-2805, AND DECLARING THE URGENCY THEREOF

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, international, national, state, and local health and governmental authorities are responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus named “SARS-CoV-2,” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019,” abbreviated COVID-19, (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Department of Public Health declared a local emergency and local public health emergency to aid the regional healthcare and governmental community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California declared a state of emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare for the broader spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America declared a national emergency and announced that the federal government would make emergency funding available to assist state and local governments in preventing the spread and addressing the effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the City Manager, in his role as the Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed the existence of a local emergency pursuant to Section 2-4-107 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to ensure the availability of mutual aid and an effective City response to the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Public Health and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health have all issued orders including, but not limited to, social distancing, staying home if sick, canceling or postponing large group events, working from home, and other precautions to protect public health and prevent transmission of this communicable virus; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the public health emergency and the precautions recommended by health authorities, many tenants in Beverly Hills have experienced or expect soon to experience sudden and unexpected income loss; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California has stated that individuals exposed to COVID-19 may be temporarily unable to report to work due to illness caused by COVID-19 or quarantines related to COVID-19, and individuals directly affected by COVID-19 may experience loss of income, health care and medical coverage, and ability to pay for housing and basic needs, thereby placing increased demands on already strained regional and local health and safety resources, including shelters and food banks; and

WHEREAS, further economic impacts are anticipated, leaving tenants vulnerable to eviction; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills is redoubling its efforts to maintain hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and social distancing. It is absolutely critical that the City does everything possible to slow the pace of community spread and avoid unnecessary strain on our medical system. To aid in these efforts, the City Council is ordering a series of temporary restrictions be placed on certain establishments throughout the City in which large numbers of people tend to gather and remain in close proximity.

WHEREAS, during this local emergency, and in the interest of protecting the public health and preventing transmission of COVID-19, it is essential to avoid unnecessary housing displacement, to protect the City's affordable housing stock, and to prevent housed individuals from falling into homelessness; and

WHEREAS, commercial tenants who operate businesses within the City may have to close their businesses in response to emergency orders, which will substantially decrease or eliminate their income, and businesses that are permitted to remain open also are likely to experience a significant loss of income while the emergency orders are in effect; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public peace, health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, it is necessary for the City Council to exercise its authority to issue these regulations related to the protection of the public peace, health or safety.

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills does adopt the recitals and the following emergency regulations which shall take effect immediately:

1. A temporary moratorium on eviction for non-payment of rent by residential tenants substantially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis is imposed as follows:

a. During the period of local emergency declared in response to COVID-19, no landlord shall endeavor to evict a tenant in either of the following situations: (1) for nonpayment of rent if the tenant demonstrates that the tenant is unable to pay rent due to substantial financial impacts related to COVID-19, or (2) for a no-fault eviction, unless necessary for the health and safety of tenants, neighbors, or the landlord, other than based on illness of the tenant or any other occupant of the residential rental unit. A landlord who receives notice that a tenant cannot pay some or all of the rent temporarily for the reasons set forth above shall not serve a notice pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1161(2), file or prosecute an unlawful detainer action based on a 3-day pay or quit notice, or otherwise seek to evict for nonpayment of rent. A