

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-_____
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AMENDING RESOLUTION 2020-27
BARRING EVICTIONS IN MARIN COUNTY DUE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
ARISING FROM COVID-19

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Marin County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2020-27 Barring Evictions in Marin County Due to the Public Health Emergency Arising from COVID-19 (“the Eviction Ban Resolution”, attached hereto as Exhibit A), and this Resolution hereby adopts and incorporates by reference all findings included with Resolution 2020-027; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, the Marin County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2020-40 amending and updating the Eviction Ban Resolution, including adding in a 90 day repayment provision for renters to repay back rent, and requiring landlords to provide notice of the Eviction Ban Resolution prior to serving a notice of eviction on any tenant; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2020, the Judicial Council of California adopted temporary emergency rules, effectively suspending action on or entry of default in eviction cases and suspending judicial foreclosures, except where necessary to protect public health and safety, through 90 days after the Governor declares that the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted, or until amended or repealed by the Judicial Council; and

WHEREAS, the Health Officer of the County of Marin has issued revised Shelter in Place Orders on March 16, March 31, and May 15, extending restrictions on activities and requiring individuals to shelter at home, allowing for certain specified restrictions; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code sections 8630 and 8634, and Marin County Code Section 2.99.035 empowers the Board of Supervisors and the Director of Emergency Services to make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life, property and the environment as affected by a local emergency, as defined by Government Code section 8558, based on the Proclamation of Local Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the County of Marin, pursuant to its police powers, has broad authority to maintain public peace, health, and safety of its community and preserve quality of life for residents throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the State of Emergency and the subsequent prohibitions on large gatherings and the issuance of a Shelter-in-Place Order, locally state-wide, many County residential tenants continue to experience sudden and substantial income loss due to business and school closures, layoffs or reductions in work hours and extraordinary medical expenses, making it challenging for them to pay rent on time and thus, more likely to face the prospect of eviction; and

WHEREAS, housing instability continues to threatens the public peace, health and safety as eviction can lead to homelessness; loss of community; stress and anxiety caused by the experience of displacement; interruption of the education of any children in the home; increased incidence of families moving into overcrowded conditions creating greater risk for the spread of COVID-19; as well as increased difficulty in complying with the Health Officer’s Shelter-in-Place Order and a corresponding increased risk to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which was established through a partnership of the County and the Marin Community Foundation, has granted assistance to over 800 renters with March, April, or May rent for a cost of \$850,000, with over 150 requests in progress, totaling \$1,200,000 in total rental assistance granted, remains severely over-subscribed, with a current waitlist of over 2,100 people, totaling over \$3.5 million dollars still needed to provide needed emergency assistance to County residents for housing;

WHEREAS, without local protection, eviction notices for failure to pay rent are likely to surge as residents are unable to earn income due to the pandemic, or are forced to pay substantial medical expenses associated with the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it continues to be essential, to the maximum feasible extent, to prevent displacement and homelessness due to evictions for non-payment of rent related to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, given the severe consequences to public health and safety throughout both unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County that would result from evictions of residential tenants during the State of Emergency, the County finds and determines that a temporary moratorium on evictions based on non-payment of rent due to COVID-19 or the government response to COVID-19, is necessary to curb the spread of COVID-19 across all areas of the County and contain the virus to the greatest extent possible and thereby serve the public peace, health and safety; and

WHEREAS, this emergency regulation is necessary for the protection of life throughout the entire jurisdictional boundaries of the County, given the County-wide nature of the proclaimed State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, in adopting this Emergency Regulation, the County is taking action pursuant to its authority under Government Code Sections 8630 and 8634 and Chapter 2.99 of the Marin County Code; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Health & Safety Code Sections 101040 and 101080, the Public Health Officer has the authority to issue orders necessary to protect public health and safety in times of a locally declared health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Officer has concluded that continued evictions in Marin County during this critical phase of the COVID-19 virus crisis would adversely impact public health and pose a grave danger to the health and safety of the residents of Marin County; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Officer recommends that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin adopt this Resolution updating and extending the County's Eviction Moratorium and concurs in its issuance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors finds that the foregoing recitals and true and correct; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin finds that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen throughout Marin County and a local emergency now exists in Marin County so that urgent measures to promote stability for residential tenancies are necessary to protect public health and to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

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

- a. No landlord or owner of residential unit(s) shall endeavor to evict a residential tenant or otherwise require a tenant to vacate if the residential tenant has provided notice to the landlord, owner, or landlord or owner's representative within 30 days after the date that rent was due that the residential tenant is unable to pay rent due to financial impacts related to COVID-19 as defined herein.

For purposes of this Resolution, the following definitions shall apply:

- i. "Financial impacts" means a substantial loss of income due to business closure, loss of compensable hours of work or wages, layoffs, missing work or child care expenditures due to school closure, medical expenses related to being ill with COVID-19 or caring for a member of the residential tenant's household who is ill with COVID-19, or other similarly- caused reason resulting in a loss of income due to COVID-19.
 - ii. "Landlord" or "Owner" means any natural person, partnership, corporate or fictitious entity, acting as a lessor or sublessor, whether as a principal or through an agent, who receives or is entitled to receive rent in exchange for the use or occupancy of any residential unit for rent, and includes a predecessor in interest.
 - iii. "Notice of Termination" means the notice informing a Tenant of the termination of their right to occupy the Residential Unit in accordance with applicable California law, including but not limited to a 3- or 30-day notice to pay or quit.
 - iv. "Rent" means the financial obligation or monetary payment a tenant owes an owner for the occupancy or use of a residential unit whether by written or oral agreement.
 - v. "Residential unit" means a structure or the part of a structure, including, but not limited to, houses, apartments, mobilehomes and recreational vehicles, that is used as a home, residence, or sleeping place by one person who maintains a household or by two or more persons who maintain a common household.
 - vi. "Tenancy" means the occupancy of residential unit(s).
 - vii. "Tenant" means a residential tenant, subtenant, lessee, sublessee, or any other person entitled by written or oral rental agreement, or by sufferance, to use or occupancy of a Residential Unit.
- b. A financial impact is "related to COVID-19" if it was directly or indirectly caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Proclamation of Local Emergency, the Health Officer's Shelter in Place Order, or public health orders or recommended guidance related

to COVID-19 from local, state, or federal authorities.

- c. Within one week of providing notice under subsection (a), the residential tenant shall provide the landlord documentation or other information that due to financial impacts related to COVID-19, the residential tenant is unable to pay rent. Tenants without access to documentation reflecting adverse financial impacts due to COVID-19 can describe and verify the adverse financial impacts. Any medical or financial information provided to the landlord shall be held in confidence, and only used to document the residential tenant's claim.
- d. A landlord who has been provided with notice under subsection (a), shall not serve a Notice of Termination file or prosecute an unlawful detainer action based on a notice of termination, or otherwise seek to evict for nonpayment of rent.
- e. A landlord may not take any actions to evict or attempt to evict a residential tenant unless the landlord demonstrates that the landlord provided a copy of this resolution and the following notice in at least 12-point font to tenants when serving tenants with a Notice of Termination:

"NOTICE: THE COUNTY OF MARIN HAS ADOPTED A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL TENANTS FOR NONPAYMENT OF RENT DUE TO COVID-19. A COPY OF THE COUNTY RESOLUTION IS ATTACHED. UPDATED INFORMATION MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM THE COUNTY'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEPARTMENT BY CONTACTING LTHOMAS@MARINCOUNTY.ORG or (415) 473-6697, OR BY VISITING:WWW.MARINCOUNTY.ORG/DEPTS/CD/DIVISIONS/HOUSING/RENTE R-AND-LANDLORD-RESOURCES
- f. For purposes of this Resolution, the notice required under subsection (a) may be provided in writing, including through paper copy, email, or text communications to a landlord or the landlord's representative with whom the residential tenant has previously corresponded by email or text.
- g. Landlords and owners of residential unit(s), and those acting on their behalf, are prohibited from harassing or intimidating residential tenants for acts or omissions expressly permitted under this Resolution, as amended.
- h. A residential tenant who demonstrated financial impact due to COVID-19 as required and defined under this Resolution shall have up to 90 days after the expiration or termination date of this Resolution to tender the past-due rent, before the tenant shall be deemed to be in default of rent payment obligations. Nothing in this Resolution shall otherwise relieve the residential tenant of liability for the unpaid rent.
- i. A landlord may not charge or collect a late fee for rent that is delayed for the reasons stated in this Resolution.
- j. Landlords and tenants of residential units are encouraged to agree on a payment plan that would allow landlords to accept partial rent payments during the term of the eviction moratorium if tenants are able to make such payments.

- k. The Director of the Community Development Agency, or the Director's designee, is authorized to develop and publish guidelines consistent with this Resolution, if needed, including developing forms and recommendations of the types of documentation that may show financial impacts related to COVID-19.
- l. This Resolution shall be enforceable as set forth in Section 2.99.060 of the Marin County Code. In addition, this Resolution grants a defense in the event that an unlawful detainer action is commenced in violation of this Resolution. This defense may be raised as an affirmative defense to any unlawful detainer action, and/or may be raised at any time, including after the expiration of this Resolution, provided the notice or complaint for the unlawful detainer action was filed or served during the period prior to expiration of this Resolution.
- m. The remedies available under this Resolution shall be in addition to any existing remedies which may be available to the residential tenant under local, state or federal law.
- n. This Resolution shall remain in effect until June 30, 2020. The provisions of paragraph "h" above shall survive this Resolution for the duration stated therein.
- o. This Resolution shall be superseded by a duly enacted Resolution or Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors, a further Order by the Director or Assistant Director of Emergency Services, or upon order of the Public Health Officer or Director, adopted during the local emergency that expressly supersedes this Resolution.
- p. This Resolution shall apply in equal force to all areas of the County of Marin, including within incorporated cities, and shall be effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held on this 26th day of May 2020, by the following vote.

AYES: SUPERVISORS
NOES:
ABSENT:

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

DEPUTY CLERK