

**SEAN
ELO-RIVERA**
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

COUNCILMEMBER FOR DISTRICT 9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2022

CONTACT: Chris Chan

Phone: 619-221-3288

City Council to Consider Declaring Housing a Human Right and Discuss New Tenant Protections

San Diego – San Diego City Council President Sean Elo-Rivera will introduce two items at the end of this month to address the City’s crisis of housing and homelessness.

“Housing is a human right and we must make this declaration to ensure we as elected leaders and our whole community own our responsibility to take the actions necessary to ensure every San Diegan has a real opportunity to have the decent and stable housing necessary for a dignified and healthy life,” said Council President Sean Elo-Rivera. **“We will also take a major step forward in preventing homelessness and providing housing stability by holding an open workshop for the public and fellow Councilmembers to provide input on the tenant protections that San Diego renters need and deserve.”**

At the October 31, 2022 City Council meeting, his office will introduce:

1. **Resolution Declaring Housing is a Human Right** -This will serve as a guiding principle for the city in finding housing solutions for all San Diego residents. The resolution invites accountability in solving San Diego’s most urgent problem. Co-sponsoring these items on the Council will be, **Council President Pro Tem Monica Montgomery Steppe, Councilmember Joe LaCava and Councilmember Raul Campillo.**

Information on Housing is a Human Right Resolution

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, housing is a component of the right to a standard of living adequate for everyone’s

health and well-being. The resolution before Council declares housing as a human right linked to dignity and the right to life.

The resolution states the City Council's intention to center equity in its efforts to implement housing as a human right and redress past harms, to ensure those who have historically not had access to adequate housing are prioritized, to open high opportunity neighborhoods to those previously excluded, and to include those with lived experience to identify equitable solutions.

The resolution also states the Council's intention for the City to implement housing as a human right by considering policies that address the root causes of homelessness, that keep people housed through affordable, accessible, and habitable homes, and that provide pathways to housing for people experiencing homelessness.

2. **Tenant Protections Ordinance Workshop** – An informational item where the public, Councilmembers and other stakeholders can submit suggestions on a Tenant Protection Ordinance that will strengthen the rights of renters and prevent people from falling into homelessness

Workshop on Tenant Protections Ordinance

This is a major step in the creation of a Tenant Protection Ordinance. With a commitment to accessible and transparent government, this informational item at the San Diego City Council will provide an opportunity for everyone to submit and hear suggestions from members of the public and Councilmembers to create an ordinance that best reflects that needs of San Diego residents.

As the City attempts to find strategies and solutions to homelessness, a vital component must include preventing people from falling into homelessness. The No-Fault Eviction Moratorium that passed in spring expired on September 30. Now renters are open to a wide variety of reasons for evictions and finding another home including rent and security deposit could cost renters \$8,000 or more. The ever-increasing cost of housing could force more people onto the streets, exacerbating the homelessness crisis. An ordinance must be created to protect tenants to allow people to stay in their homes.

Tenant advocates have long highlighted the need for Council action to address housing stability and homelessness prevention.

“After 30 years of living in Ocean Beach (District 2), never did I imagine at 61 years old and never missing a rent payment, that I would be at risk of being evicted from my home - simply because an investor purchased this building and was able to use a loophole of renovations to make more money,” said ACCE Member Dawn Rosen. **“This is not a legitimate vacancy. This is merciless greed.**

It is crucial to make the prompt decision to institute stronger protections against No-Fault Evictions in order to protect tenants like myself from ending up homeless and living in the street.” A member of Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) highlights the need to protect renters.

“We need to create a San Diego where all families can thrive,” said **Rahmo Abdi**, Interim Director of Organizing and Campaigns at the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans. **“City Council must act as soon as possible to pass strong, enforceable, and permanent tenant protections that give families the housing stability they need to plan for the future and thrive in the communities they love. We thank Council President Sean Elo-Rivera for bringing forward this issue on October 31st and encourage the full council to support this effort because San Diego families deserve safe and quality housing.”** The Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans has called for strong tenant protections.

Further details of both items will be released with the posting of the agenda scheduled for Wednesday October 26, 2022.

Council President Elo-Rivera represents San Diego’s Ninth Council District including communities of City Heights, Rolando, Southcrest, Mt. Hope, Talmadge, Mountain View, Kensington, El Cerrito, and the College Area. He is the Chair of the Rules Committee.

###