

A Resolution
Protecting the Housing Security of Arkansas Renters during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Whereas, the number of COVID-19 cases is steadily increasing in the State of Arkansas according to the daily reports by the State Department of Health; and

Whereas, health experts advise that social distancing and quarantining are necessary components in stopping the spread of COVID-19; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in widespread and unprecedented economic consequences with more than 30 million Americans filing unemployment claims in the month of April and more than 10% of Arkansans currently unemployed; and

Whereas, there are 963,000 renter households in Arkansas and more than 40% of Little Rock population live in rental housing; and

Whereas, the CARES Act has suspended evictions and banned late fees in several types of properties backed or subsidized by the federal government and at least 25 other states currently have moratoriums on evictions in place; and

Whereas, evictions continued to be filed in Arkansas, even in some properties covered by the CARES Act, and tenants have been charged late fees and are being evicted even though Governor Hutchinson declared the state of emergency; and

Whereas, the health and safety of our citizens should be our first priority;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Section 1. The City of Little Rock urges all landlords to halt all evictions at every stage of the process until the COVID-19 state emergency has been lifted.

Section 2. The City of Little Rock urges all landlords to suspend late fees from the date of the Governor's declaration of the state of emergency until the state of emergency is lifted.

Section 3. The City of Little Rock urges all landlords not to report missing or late rental payments to credit agencies or debt collection agencies to avoid future economic hardship for tenants following the pandemic

Section 4. The City of Little Rock calls on Governor Hutchinson to issue a moratorium on all evictions at every stage of the process. to place a ban on late fees and prohibit reporting missing or late rental payments to credit and debt collection agencies during the COVID-19 health crisis.

Section 5. The City of Little Rock urges Governor Hutchinson to establish an emergency fund to help tenants who cannot pay rent through no fault of their own because of the COVID-19 health crisis.

DATE: _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST: