



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Lester J. Friedman, Mayor

February 22, 2021

The Honorable David Chiu  
California State Assembly, 17th District  
State Capitol, Room 4112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 16 (Chiu) - Tenancies: COVID-19 Tenant, Small Landlord, and Affordable Housing Provider Stabilization Act of 2021.  
City of Beverly Hills – Support

Dear Assemblymember Chiu,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in SUPPORT of your AB 16, which would establish the Tenant, Small Landlord, and Affordable Housing Provider Stabilization Program. The bill would also establish in the State Treasury the COVID-19 Tenant, Small Landlord, and Affordable Housing Provider Stabilization Fund, and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, distribute all moneys in the fund to the department to carry out the purposes of the program.

Last year, the Legislature enacted, and the Governor signed AB 3088 (Ch. 37, Stats. 2020) to extend protection to renters affected by COVID-19 who were at risk of eviction for failure to pay rent. This bill was a direct response to the catastrophic economic and health consequences of the pandemic. Unfortunately, the scourge of the pandemic remains far from eliminated. Tens of thousands of Californians continue to be out of work or suffering health-related effects of the novel coronavirus.

The Turner Center at UC Berkeley recently analyzed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rental households and found that 2.3 million households were impacted by job or income loss and 1.16 million households were already cost-burdened pre-pandemic. This has resulted in a growing number of families unable to meet their rent obligations. Additionally, a U.S. Census Bureau survey conducted in mid-November of 2020, found more than 2 million renters in California households reported “little to no confidence” in their ability to pay next month’s rent. Without further legislative action, the housing affordability crisis will lead to mass evictions and an increase in homelessness.

AB 16 provides rental assistance for low-income renters and their landlords who have accumulated massive rent debt. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills SUPPORTS your AB 16. Thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester J. Friedman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester J. Friedman  
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development  
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District  
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange