

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City Council Stops Evictions Caused by COVID-19 and Creates Relief Fund for Businesses**

*Actions Protect San Diego's Vulnerable Renters and Small Businesses*

SAN DIEGO – The City Council today approved critical pieces of Council President Georgette Gómez comprehensive package of legislation to help lessen the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on San Diego's most at-risk residents.

On a unanimous vote, the Council enacted a temporary moratorium on evictions of residents who cannot pay rent and businesses that cannot make their lease payments due to financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Also on a unanimous vote, the Council established a Small Business Relief Fund to support San Diego businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The relief fund will be created by repurposing nearly \$4 million in existing grant funding.

**"I want to thank my Council colleagues and the Mayor for standing with me and making sure no one loses their home in the middle of a public health emergency and growing economic crisis," Council President Gómez said. "Most of our small businesses have been forced to close, and countless San Diegans are losing work and income as we try to slow the spread of the virus. Today, we let struggling residents and small businesses owners know that we have their back."**

The eviction moratorium ordinance, which is effective today through May 31, includes documentation requirements of tenants seeking relief, who have up to six months after the effective date of the ordinance to pay any unpaid rent. Landlords may seek payment of rent but may not evict tenants who qualify for relief.

As part of the action, the Council asked City staff to work with banks and lenders to halt foreclosures of properties whose owners are unable to make mortgage payments, and aggressively seek local, state, and federal economic aid packages to provide relief to landlords, which benefits tenants.

Under the ordinance, the San Diego Housing Commission and its nonprofit affiliate Housing Development Partners are prohibited from evicting tenants who reside in any of the 3,732 Commission-controlled affordable apartments.

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Council President Gómez represents the Ninth Council District of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Alvarado Estates, City Heights, College Area, College View Estates, El Cerrito, Kensington, Mountain View, Mt. Hope, Rolando, Southcrest, and Talmadge. She chairs the City of San Diego Rules Committee and sits on the Metropolitan Transit System Board of Directors and on the SANDAG Board of Directors and Executive Board.