

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 27, 2020

Council President Gómez Calls for Extended Rent Payment Period

Proposal Would Push Payment Deadline to March 31, 2021

SAN DIEGO – Residents and small businesses protected by the City’s eviction moratorium have until Sept. 25, 2020, to pay any unpaid rent. City Council President Georgette Gómez will ask her colleagues at Tuesday’s Council meeting to support her proposal to extend that deadline to March 31, 2021.

“When we passed the eviction moratorium in March, I hoped that six months would be enough for renters and small businesses to recover from the economic effects of COVID-19, or that our federal government would provide sufficient relief,” Gómez said. “Unfortunately, the pandemic is not subsiding, unemployment remains high, many businesses are still struggling, and the federal government’s response has been woefully inadequate. It is absolutely critical that we give San Diegans more time.”

The City Council on March 25 passed a two-month ban on evictions of tenants who could not make rent or lease payments due to pandemic-related financial hardship. It has twice been extended and now is set to expire on Sept. 30, 2020. The Council has approved \$15.1 million in relief funding for struggling renters, as well as \$18.9 million in relief funding for small businesses.

COVID-19 cases have risen significantly throughout July due to the reopening of businesses and recreational venues. In response, the Governor has again ordered many businesses to close. San Diego County’s unemployment rate was roughly 14 percent in June; July’s number is expected to be higher.

The limited federal ban on evictions expired on July 25, and Congress has not yet agreed on legislation that would extend it; nor has Congress agreed on further relief for individuals and small businesses. Additionally, the \$600 per week in federal unemployment benefits will expire on July 31. It is expected this will cause a wave of eviction summonses, especially for lower-income residents.

State legislation that would provide protection from evictions and create a long-term rent-repayment process is under consideration but hasn’t yet been acted on. The Legislature is expected to resume its 2020 session this week, after its summer recess was extended due to COVID-19 outbreak at the Capitol.

Under the City’s eviction moratorium, renters and small businesses affected by COVID-19 cannot be evicted if they notify their landlord in writing, on or before the day the rent is due, that they are unable to pay. They have one week after notification to provide proof that their financial hardship is related to the pandemic. Landlords and tenants are encouraged to work out a payment plan on their own. Tenants and landlords can learn more about San Diego’s eviction moratorium [here](#).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only City staff and credentialed members of the press may attend tomorrow’s Council meeting in person. However, those wishing to register their support for extending the rent-repayment period can submit a comment through [this online form](#) or call in to the meeting and make a comment when the extension item is announced by the City Clerk. The call-in number is 619-541-6310, and the access code is 877861, followed by #. [Here](#) are the full call-in instructions. Council meetings are broadcast on Channel 24 through Cox and Time-Warner cable systems and Channel 99 through AT&T. They are also [streamed online](#).

###

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.