

**RESOLUTION NO. 6-21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 15 (CHIU), WHICH WOULD EXTEND CERTAIN EVICTION PROTECTIONS FROM THE COVID-19 TENANT RELIEF ACT OF 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 16 (CHIU) THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A FUND AND FRAMEWORK FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ENSURE LONG-TERM STABILITY FOR RENTERS, SMALL LANDLORDS, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVIDERS**

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**WHEREAS**, as California grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, including 49,082 cases in Contra Costa County and 7,796 cases in the City of Richmond, according to Contra Costa Health Services, many Californians remain unemployed and unable to pay rent; and

**WHEREAS**, a survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau between November 11 through 23, 2020, found over 2 million renter households in California reported “little to no confidence” in their ability to pay next month’s rent, and renewed stay-at-home orders are likely to increase this financial burden; and

**WHEREAS**, 25.5% of California renter households and 17.4% of California property owners are behind on their rent and mortgage payments according to the Turner Center at UC Berkeley; and

**WHEREAS**, in the City of Richmond, California, and the United States face an escalating eviction and debt crisis, with a UCLA study attributing 10,000 COVID-19 deaths and 400,000 infections directly to eviction; and

**WHEREAS**, at least 151,000 people are homeless in California, and rising unemployment combined with a lack of eviction protections and small homeowner assistance will only further exacerbate the homelessness crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill 3088, the legislation passed in the California State Legislature and signed by Governor Newsom on August 31, 2020, to protect renters who cannot pay their rent in full due to COVID-related hardship, expires on January 31, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, without a change in law, the expired provisions of AB 3088 will lead to a possible surge in evictions; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 7, 2020, Assembly member Chiu introduced Assembly Bill No. 15 which would expand the definition of “COVID-19 rental debt” to include unpaid rent or other unpaid financial obligation of a tenant through December 31, 2021; eliminate the default burden that require high-income tenants to submit additional documentation supporting a claim of COVID-19-related financial distress; extend enhanced damages through January 1, 2022, for landlords who interrupt or terminate utility service furnished to a tenant with the intent to terminate the occupancy of the tenant; prohibit a landlord from attempting to collect late fees, providing different terms or conditions of tenancy, or withholding a service or amenity with respect to a tenant’s COVID-19 rental debt; extend the prohibition on unlawful detainer based on a cause of action other than nonpayment of COVID-19 rental debt for the purpose of retaliating against the lessee because the lessee has COVID-19 rental debt; and extends through January 1, 2022, or the end of a local jurisdiction’s repayment period, whichever is later, the prohibition on legal actions to recover COVID-19 rental debt; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. 16, introduced by Assembly Member David Chiu on December 7, 2020, sets forth the Legislature’s intent to enact the Tenant, Small Landlord, and Affordable Housing Provider Stabilization Act of 2021, which would establish through statute a fund and framework for distributing financial support to ensure long-term stability for renters, small landlords, and affordable housing providers, to protect tenants from displacement during the ongoing public health crisis, and ensure an equitable, broadly shared recovery.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Richmond City Council **does** hereby endorse AB 15 and AB 16 and urges Governor Newsom and the California State Legislature to pass these bills with urgency; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Richmond City Council requests the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of Assembly member Buffy Wicks, Assembly member Chiu, Office of Senator Nancy Skinner and the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom.

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I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held January 26, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Jimenez, Johnson, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt.
NOES:	None.
ABSTENTIONS:	None.
ABSENT:	None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND  
(SEAL)

Approved:

THOMAS K. BUTT  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

TERESA STRICKER  
City Attorney

State of California            }  
County of Contra Costa        } : ss.  
City of Richmond                }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 6-21**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on January 26, 2021.

  
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Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond