

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO EXTEND EVICTION PROTECTIONS UNDER SENATE BILL 91, THE CALIFORNIA TENANT RELIEF ACT, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 public health emergency has impacted millions of people across California, resulting in millions of COVID-19 infections and thousands of deaths in the State, including over 42,000 infections and over 575 deaths in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, according to PolicyLink, a national research and action institute, at least 151,000 people are already homeless in California and approximately 11% of Bay Area renter households, including an estimated 10,945 renter households in San Mateo County, have rent debt due to a loss of income during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to PolicyLink, the total rental debt in San Mateo County amounts to approximately \$48.5 million; and

WHEREAS, a survey conducted in October 2020 by the Stanford University John Gardner Center for Youth and their Communities reflects that housing insecurity affects one third of renters (30-35%) in Redwood City and North Fair Oaks, with 7% of renters in those areas under immediate threat of eviction; and

WHEREAS, the threat to public health and socioeconomic stability that San Mateo County is facing is unprecedented, and city and county governments need every available tool to effectively respond to their communities' respective challenges; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature adopted Senate Bill 91 ("SB 91"), which the Governor signed on January 29, 2021 and which extended a residential eviction moratorium throughout the State of California that was initially imposed by Assembly Bill 3088, which was adopted on August 31, 2020, to prevent the eviction of residential tenants unable to pay their rent in full due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, to implement SB 91, the State of California established the Emergency Rental Assistance Program ("ERAP Program") for the distribution of state and federal funds to address the debt facing millions of tenants and property owners and the ERAP Program included approximately \$47 million in rental relief funds for San Mateo County tenants and property owners, as well as funds to assist with outreach and application assistance; and

WHEREAS the ERAP Program guidelines prioritize rental relief payments for debt accrued before March 31, 2021, and do not allow for any payments for prospective rental debt accrued after June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS many residents of San Mateo County have accrued debt and some have reported an increase in pressure to pay rent that they remain unable to pay and the County and its community partners continue to work to inform tenants and property owners about the availability of rental debt relief through the ERAP Program and to

encourage and assist tenants and property owners to apply for ERAP Program assistance; and

WHEREAS, while County staff and community partners continue to work diligently to maximize applications for ERAP Program relief from eligible applicants, owing to the sometimes significant time needed to complete applications and for the applications to be processed, many eligible applicants have yet to receive relief from the ERAP Program; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, this Board believes that an extension of the eviction protections set forth in SB 91 is appropriate at the State level in order to maximize the effectiveness of the State ERAP Program and to ensure the fair and uniform treatment of all California tenants and property owners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors confirms its strong conviction that all San Mateo County renters should be able to maintain their current housing during the COVID-19 public health emergency without fear of eviction especially given that tenants and property owners continue to pursue relief through the ERAP Program and that this Board of Supervisors therefore urges all property owners in the County to apply for ERAP Program funding for their tenants who have accumulated rental debt and who are eligible for ERAP Program relief, to stabilize housing for everyone in the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors hereby endorses an extension through December 31, 2021 of the statewide eviction protections set forth

in SB 91, the California Tenant Relief Act, and urges the Legislature to extend to December 31, 2021 the time period for which ERAP Program rental relief may be granted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors calls upon Governor Newsom and the California State Legislature to adopt such an extension to these eviction protections through the California State budget process to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and stabilize the communities they represent.

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