

EAST BAY FOR EVERYONE

Community and Economic Development Committee
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA
December 2, 2017

Councilmembers Reid, McElhaney, Gallo, and Campbell Washington:

East Bay for Everyone is dismayed at the city council's decision to pull the Universal Relocation Payment Ordinance from its second reading and subsequent enactment into law. Displacement in any situation is a violent disruption of an Oaklander's life with long-term effects. It is a folly to believe that some forms of displacement are more acceptable or "easier" than others, as is the case with the purported reason for the ordinance's delay.

The Universal Relocation Payment Ordinance is just that—universal. Thus it should be applied fairly, equitably, and uniformly to all applicable cases of no-cause eviction and relocation. A phase-in program is none of that and no such amendment to undermine the program's universal nature is necessary. Phasing in divides tenants into three classes without justification.

A renter who has just moved into an apartment has recently incurred significant costs of both money and time including moving expenses, lost wages from the time spent moving, increased transportation use, updating doctors, changing schools, and so on, all in addition to the customary payment of first month's rent, last month's rent and a security deposit. Conversely,, a renter who has lived in the same place for longer than two years can be expected to have a reasonably stable environment in which any such moving expenses have been paid off.

Renters who have lived in their apartments for a shorter time are at a disadvantage compared to long-term renters. This refers not only to families moving to Oakland for the first time. Consider the case of an Oaklander recently displaced by a fire; Oakland has had a number of fires this year resulting in displacement of tenants. Under the existing Universal Relocation Payment ordinance, a fire that destroys all of their possessions would have no bearing on a tenant's ability to withstand an Ellis Act eviction in their new housing. They would be entitled to the full \$9,875.00. With a proposed phase-in amendment, they would instead be entitled to \$3,291.00, even though they have recently incurred a massive loss through no fault of their own and have an even deeper need for assistance..

That is not fair for renters, and it is not fair for Oakland. We have an opportunity to be a leader in the Bay Area by making the decisions that support and lift up the poorest and least fortunate of us.

A civilization is not judged by how well it treats its land-owning class; it is judged by how well it treats its poor.

Do not amend the Universal Relocation Payment Ordinance.

Signed, the 743 members and supporters of East Bay for Everyone, including:

Ben Keller, Oakland	Greg Pelly, Oakland
Milo Trauss, Oakland	Ernest Brown, Oakland
Justin Horner, Rockridge	Kieryn Darkwater, Oakland
Greg Magofña, Berkeley	Sonja Trauss, San Francisco
Aaron Eckhouse, Berkeley	Adriana Valencia, Mosswood
Jessee Lovegood, Oakland	Angela Hockabout, Alameda
Josh Geyer, Alameda	Luke Iseman, West Oakland
Armand Domalewski, Danville	Sam Phillips, Oakland
Ian Monroe, Oakland	Jessee Lovegood, Oakland
Tommaso Sciortino, Oakland	Aaron Eckhouse, Berkeley
Victoria Fierce, Oakland	Nathan Stalnaker, Oakland
Christopher Anderson, Oakland	Garret Christensen, Pill Hill
Chris Garrett, Oakland	

Cc: Oakland City Council
Mayor Libby Schaaf