

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 183

Approved June 9, 2020

WHEREAS, On March 9th, 2020 Governor Raimondo issued an executive order declaring a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, Following the Governor's declaration of the State of Emergency, RI Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul Suttell issued an order that courts were to close for most cases, including eviction proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Over 100,000 Rhode Islanders have filed for unemployment benefits and the statewide unemployment number has climbed from 5% to 17%; and

WHEREAS, On June 1st courts will reopen and begin hearing cases related to evictions; and

WHEREAS, There will likely be a backlog of cases related to evictions; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 crisis continues to devastate our community and take the lives of many Rhode Islanders; and

WHEREAS, Evicting Rhode Islanders in the midst of a global pandemic is not only unethical but a public health threat that will further spread the virus and may increase homelessness; as the unhoused are forced to the streets.

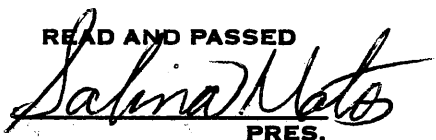
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City of Providence City Council urges Governor Raimondo to enact a complete eviction moratorium, cancellation of rent and mortgage payments, and forgiveness of all prior rent and mortgage payment obligations during the declared state of emergency and for 120 days after it is lifted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Providence City Council urges the RI General Assembly to take up a comprehensive bill that replicates the language proposed in H.R. 6515 "Emergency Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act of 2020" as introduced by Representative Ilhan Omar. Provisions of this bill include no evictions for nonpayment of rents and mortgages, a prohibition on fines and fees for nonpayment, no accrual of debt for past nonpayment, forgiving any rent payments due during the declared state of emergency, relief Fund to assist landlords and to reimburse any payments made during the state of emergency.

IN CITY COUNCIL

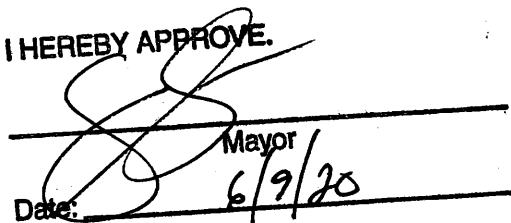
JUN 04 2020

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor
Date: 6/9/20