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de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Rebecca August <rebeccaugust@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 12:22 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Agenda item 4: Support for Urgency Ordinance to temporarily prohibit evictions

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Dear Chair Adam and members of the Board,

First, thank you for your service. In times of crisis, your leadership and custodianship is even more keenly appreciated.

In the midst of a pandemic, the last thing the County needs is more people and families without homes and the resources they need to stay safe. The inability to work has already left many people without the means to cover expenses, and this crisis has hardly begun. Beyond obvious humanitarian reasons against shutting people out of their homes during such a time, adding to the current homeless population carries with it multiple risks for the entire county.

Evicted tenants cannot comply with Shelter in Place orders and will find it difficult to adhere to sanitation and social distancing guidelines. This will increase the spread of COVID-19, make it more difficult for the county to “flatten the curve,” and will burden already inadequate local medical resources.

It is much easier for people to overcome a financial setback if they have a home. Evicting those under financial strain will decrease our county’s overall resiliency after the crisis has passed, and will cost the County—and county tax payers—more in the end.

Similar ordinances are already being implemented in cities like Los Angeles and Oxnard in response to this imminent threat.

One thing we are learning from this crisis is that the wellbeing of every individual in our community impacts each and every one of us, and no one is immune to hardship and tragedy. We will get through this with much less suffering by working together and supporting each other.

Please vote in support of the Urgency Ordinance to temporarily prohibit evictions.

Thank you,
Rebecca August
Buellton, CA

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