Regular Council Meeting February 17, 2022



FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Email / eComment Report

The attached public comments were submitted for the February 17, 2022 Regular City Council meeting and were not directly related to any specific item(s) on the published agenda.

Total number of emails / eComments: 11

Item(s)

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

From:

Clerk

Sent:

Friday, February 18, 2022 8:28 AM

To:

Amanda Martin

Subject:

FW: Here to Stay policy recommendations

From: Alondra Garza

Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 6:21 PM

To: Clerk < Clerk@fresno.gov>

Subject: Here to Stay policy recommendations

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Fresno	City	Council,	
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My name is _____alondra garza_____ and I am a Fresno community member in District __93701___. I want the City of Fresno to host a special public meeting on housing and the Here to Stay report. Additionally, I urge City leaders to approve the top 10 policy recommendations identified in the Here to Stay report to support tenants and prevent displacement.

Fresno residents cannot afford to wait any longer for action on addressing our housing crisis. Two out of three Fresnans pay 30% or more of their income towards housing; this means 2 out of 3 residents are one unexpected medical bill, car repair, or some other unforeseen circumstance that will put them at risk of losing their current housing.

City leaders must take immediate action toward long-term solutions, including rent stabilization, just cause eviction protections, and a comprehensive and fully funded Eviction Protection Program. These policy recommendations have a proven track record of keeping people housed and will directly benefit residents by preventing or mitigating displacement.

Alondra Garza

From:

MATTHEW JENDIAN

Sent:

Thursday, February 17, 2022 12:35 PM

To:

Clerk

Subject:

A Special Council Meeting Devoted to HOUSING

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Fresno City Council,

My name is Matthew Jendian, and I live in Councilmember Esmeralda Soria's District, District 1, and I teach at Fresno State in Council member Tyler Maxwell's District, District 4. I want the City of Fresno to host a special public meeting on housing. I want to the City Council to approve the TOP 10 policy recommendations identified in the Here To Stay Report or explain to the general public what the City's plan is to address both the immediate and long-term housing needs of our residents. As public officials, you owe the public both a hearing AND a response on what your plan is for housing, because it is and remains a serious issue.

As a native-born Fresno, who has lived and worked and gone to school in Fresno for the majority of my 53 years of life, I am sad to have to stand here before the Fresno City Council elected leaders to ASK that you do something—something that you have the power to do—on behalf of the last, the least, the left out, the looked over. I may be sad, but some of my students and former students and their families are truly SUFFERING. It's affecting their physical and mental health, their educational achievement, their relationships, and their ability to live a dignified life.

One of my students this semester, while working fulltime 40-60 hours a week has gone through a bulk of the semester couch surfing while she is waiting to approved for an apartment that she is on the list for.

This housing problem may look like an individual problem, but it is a STRUCTURAL problem. A problem built into the structure of our economy. People's incomes are NOT increasing at the same rate as the rising cost of living, especially the cost of housing. That's a simple math

problem. We guarantee a basic income for everyone to keep pace with the Consumer Price Index and/or do something to regulate our housing market.

Kemp (2016) describes two approaches to increasing access to housing: 1) building more lower-cost housing and 2) providing housing vouchers. New construction as well as renovation of existing housing stock are both needed.

The Fresno County rental market is a billion-dollar industry. Every month tenants pay an estimated \$135,978,500 in rent to public and private-sector landlords (or their agents) to secure their homes. That is \$1,631,742,000 annually. Nearly 50% of residents in Fresno County and 52% of residents in the City of Fresno are renters.

According to the Fresno Bee, "the [Fresno] area's year-over-year rise of more than 19% in median rent – the point at which half of units cost more and half cost less – is the largest percentage increase among 16 California metro areas included in the data." From 2020-2021, the median rent for an apartment in Fresno County has increased by almost \$280 per month from where it was a year ago, rising from \$1,157 in July 2020 to \$1,436 in July 2021, according to an analysis of 200 large metro areas across the United States by ApartmentList.com. At the start of 2017, the median monthly rent for an apartment in Fresno was \$934. The \$502 difference over the intervening 4 1/2 years amounts to an increase of almost 54% – also the highest rate in the state and fifth highest in the United States.

Rental Stabilization is an effective way of keeping Fresno residents housed and in their communities. It promotes stability, safety, and protection for tenants, while still allowing for landlords to make a fair return on their investments. In Los Angeles County, the allowable increase is tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) ranging from 3% to 8% — all while having a thriving housing market.

Rent stabilization must be paired with other anti-displacement measures like Just Cause protections. The City of Fresno must approach the housing crisis in a comprehensive manner because no one policy or one-time funding will solve the shortage and quality crisis we're facing. With Just Cause protections, landlords must have a reasonable justification for evicting someone such as a breach of a lease agreement or if they were taking the property off the rental market. In certain circumstances, Just Cause would also require landlords to pay appropriate relocation fees so tenants could find comparable housing elsewhere, like when they no longer choose to rent the unit or are doing major renovations that would require the tenant to move out. A Just Cause Eviction Protection & Right to Counsel policy would

defend "tenants against unlawful informal or formal evictions, including but not limited to retaliatory evictions after a tenant complains about substandard housing conditions; evictions of domestic violence survivors for the acts of the perpetrator of domestic violence, and evictions based on unlawful discrimination based on race, country of origin, disability, legal status." As of August 2021, 19 cities in California have already established Rent Stabilization ordinances preventing renters and residents from being displaced.

I'm not sure what your faith orientation or spiritual practice is, but I'm very sure that no matter your orientation, one of the teachings you believe in is COMPASSION. And as author Susan Sontag said, "Compassion is an unstable emotion; it needs to be translated into action or it withers." I'm asking you to breathe in the pain and suffering of the narratives you've heard today and the thousands of other stories you haven't heard and exhale ACTION that brings these individuals peace, good, will, safe, decent, affordable, and accessible housing. It's been too long for us to WAIT for Council action on housing. I remember then Mayor Alan Autry used the phrase "A Tale of Two Cities"; our current Mayor has pledged to work to creating One Fresno.

It's been too long for us to WAIT for Council action housing. I remember when we organized a Housing Tour in Fresno in May 2004 with the precursor to Faith in the Valley, Faith in Community to show then Fresno City Council members the depths of the housing crisis in Fresno.

It's been too long for us to WAIT. In the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from a jail cell in Birmingham in 1963. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct-action campaign that was "well timed" in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of [poverty, homelessness, &] segregation. For years now, I have heard the word "Wait!" ... [and] [t]his "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We must come to see ... that "justice too long delayed is justice denied."

Please use the power that you have to stand up for those of us who are HERE TO STAY and host a special public meeting on housing. Approve the TOP 10 policy recommendations identified in the Here To Stay Report or explain to the general public what the City's plan is to address both the immediate and long-term housing needs of our residents in support of a safer, more secure, and compassionate Fresno.

MATTHEW JENDIAN

From:

Clerk

Sent:

Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:18 AM

To:

Amanda Martin

Subject:

FW: Here to Stay policy recommendations

From: Karla Martinez

Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 6:39 PM

To: Clerk

Subject: Here to Stay policy recommendations

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Fresno City Council,

My name is Karla Martinez and I am a Fresno community member in District 3. I want the City of Fresno to host a special public meeting on housing and the Here to Stay report.

Additionally, I urge City leaders to approve the top 10 policy recommendations identified in the Here to Stay report to support tenants and prevent displacement.

Fresno residents cannot afford to wait any longer for action on addressing our housing crisis. Two out of three Fresnans pay 30% or more of their income towards housing; this means 2 out of 3 residents are one unexpected medical bill, car repair, or some other unforeseen circumstance that will put them at risk of losing their current housing.

City leaders must take immediate action toward long-term solutions, including rent stabilization, just cause eviction protections, and a comprehensive and fully funded Eviction Protection Program. These policy recommendations have a proven track record of keeping people housed and will directly benefit residents by preventing or mitigating displacement.

Karla Martinez

From:

Clerk

Sent:

Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:17 AM

To:

Amanda Martin

Subject:

FW: Here to Stay policy recommendations

From: Natalie Gonzalez

Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 6:41 PM

To: Clerk

Subject: Here to Stay policy recommendations

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Fresno City Council,

My name is Natalie Gonzalez and I am a Fresno community member in District 4. I want the City of Fresno to host a special public meeting on housing and the Here to Stay report.

Additionally, I urge City leaders to approve the top 10 policy recommendations identified in the Here to Stay report to support tenants and prevent displacement.

Fresno residents cannot afford to wait any longer for action on addressing our housing crisis. Two out of three Fresnans pay 30% or more of their income towards housing; this means 2 out of 3 residents are one unexpected medical bill, car repair, or some other unforeseen circumstance that will put them at risk of losing their current housing.

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Natalie Gonzalez

Dinuba, California 93618

From:

Clerk

Sent:

Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:17 AM

To:

Amanda Martin

Subject:

FW: Here to Stay policy recommendations

From: Madison Kuhno

Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 6:44 PM

To: Clerk

Subject: Here to Stay policy recommendations

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Fresno City Council,

My name is Madison Kuhno and I am a Fresno community member in District 7. I want the City of Fresno to host a special public meeting on housing and the Here to Stay report. Additionally, I urge City leaders to approve the top 10 policy recommendations identified in the Here to Stay report to support tenants and prevent displacement.

Fresho residents cannot afford to wait any longer for action on addressing our housing crisis. Two out of three Freshians pay 30% or more of their income towards housing; this means 2 out of 3 residents are one unexpected medical bill, car repair, or some other unforeseen circumstance that will put them at risk of losing their current housing.

City leaders must take immediate action toward long-term solutions, including rent stabilization, just cause eviction protections, and a comprehensive and fully funded Eviction Protection Program. These policy recommendations have a proven track record of keeping people housed and will directly benefit residents by preventing or mitigating displacement.

Madison Kuhno

From:

Clerk

Sent:

Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:17 AM

To:

Amanda Martin

Subject:

FW: Here to Stay policy recommendations

From: Wendy Rojas-aguirre

Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 6:44 PM

To: Clerk

Subject: Here to Stay policy recommendations

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Fresno City Council,

My name is __Wendy Rojas-Aguirre_ and I am a Fresno community member in District __5__. I want the City of Fresno to host a special public meeting on housing and the Here to Stay report. Additionally, I urge City leaders to approve the top 10 policy recommendations identified in the Here to Stay report to support tenants and prevent displacement.

Fresno residents cannot afford to wait any longer for action on addressing our housing crisis. Two out of three Fresnans pay 30% or more of their income towards housing; this means 2 out of 3 residents are one unexpected medical bill, car repair, or some other unforeseen circumstance that will put them at risk of losing their current housing.

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Wendy Rojas-aguirre

From: Clerk

Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:17 AM

To: Amanda Martin

Subject: FW: Here to Stay policy recommendations

From: Miguel Alvarez

Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 6:47 PM

To: Clerk

Subject: Here to Stay policy recommendations

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Fresno City Council,

My name is Miguel Alvarez and I am a Fresno community member in District 4. I want the City of Fresno to host a special public meeting on housing and the Here to Stay report.

Additionally, I urge City leaders to approve the top 10 policy recommendations identified in the Here to Stay report to support tenants and prevent displacement.

Fresno residents cannot afford to wait any longer for action on addressing our housing crisis. Two out of three Fresnans pay 30% or more of their income towards housing; this means 2 out of 3 residents are one unexpected medical bill, car repair, or some other unforeseen circumstance that will put them at risk of losing their current housing.

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Miguel Alvarez

From:

Clerk

Sent:

Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:16 AM

To:

Amanda Martin

Subject:

FW: Here to Stay policy recommendations

From: Perla Reyes

Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 6:49 PM

To: Clerk < Clerk@fresno.gov>

Subject: Here to Stay policy recommendations

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Fresno City Council,

My name is Perla Reyes and I am a Fresno community member in District. I want the City of Fresno to host a special public meeting on housing and the Here to Stay report. Additionally, I urge City leaders to approve the top 10 policy recommendations identified in the Here to Stay report to support tenants and prevent displacement.

Fresno residents cannot afford to wait any longer for action on addressing our housing crisis. Two out of three Fresnans pay 30% or more of their income towards housing; this means 2 out of 3 residents are one unexpected medical bill, car repair, or some other unforeseen circumstance that will put them at risk of losing their current housing.

City leaders must take immediate action toward long-term solutions, including rent stabilization, just cause eviction protections, and a comprehensive and fully funded Eviction Protection Program. These policy recommendations have a proven track record of keeping people housed and will directly benefit residents by preventing or mitigating displacement.

Perla Reyes

Madera, California 93637

From:

Clerk

Sent:

Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:16 AM

To:

Amanda Martin

Subject:

FW: Here to Stay policy recommendations

From: Kevin Yong

Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 6:51 PM

To: Clerk < Clerk@fresno.gov>

Subject: Here to Stay policy recommendations

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Fresno City Council,

My name is Kevin Yong and I am a Fresno community member. I want the City of Fresno to host a special public meeting on housing and the Here to Stay report. Additionally, I urge City leaders to approve the top 10 policy recommendations identified in the Here to Stay report to support tenants and prevent displacement.

Fresno residents cannot afford to wait any longer for action on addressing our housing crisis. Two out of three Fresnans pay 30% or more of their income towards housing; this means 2 out of 3 residents are one unexpected medical bill, car repair, or some other unforeseen circumstance that will put them at risk of losing their current housing.

City leaders must take immediate action toward long-term solutions, including rent stabilization, just cause eviction protections, and a comprehensive and fully funded Eviction Protection Program. These policy recommendations have a proven track record of keeping people housed and will directly benefit residents by preventing or mitigating displacement.

Kevin Yong

Clovis, California 93611

From: Clerk

Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:13 AM

To: Amanda Martin

Subject: FW: Public comment for 2/17 agenda

From: Maya Kratzer

Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 6:53 AM

To: Clerk < Clerk@fresno.gov>

Subject: Public comment for 2/17 agenda

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Councilmembers.

My name is Maya and I live in District 6. I'm asking that the City of Fresno host a special public meeting on housing and the Here to Stay Report between Feb. 28th and March 4th. The historic report, that you commissioned, and it's policy recommendations provide you all with a blueprint on research- and community-backed solutions to addressing our housing and displacement crises. The city and its residents need time and space allocated to focus on those.

I am additionally urging City leaders to approve the top 10 policy recommendations identified in the report to support tenants and prevent displacement. I ask that you consider the cost of inaction in these unprecedented moments of skyrocketing rental and housing markets. Particularly during an ongoing pandemic, safe and stable housing is at the root of survival. I have seen the lives of friends and loved ones cut short because of the city's inaction.

I truly feel that the stakes could not be higher and urge you to hold a Special Meeting on the Here to Stay Report, and then follow through with approval of the top 10 policy recommendations.

Thank you for your time, Maya Kratzer Resident of District 6

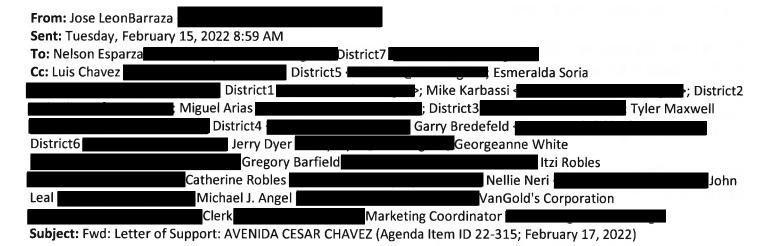
From: Clerk

Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 2:35 PM

To: Amanda Martin

Subject: FW: Letter of Support: AVENIDA CESAR CHAVEZ (Agenda Item ID 22-315; February 17,

2022)



External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Council President Nelson Esparza;

Council Members; and Mayor Jerry Dyer:

RE: Proposed Naming of Ventura/Kings Canyon Boulevard to AVENIDA CESAR CHAVEZ.

On behalf of the Board of the Southeast Fresno Community Economic Development Association, Inc. (SEFCEDA) and the many residents and small business owners who interact with us and support our work, we would like to express our support for Council Member Luis Chavez's proposal to change the name of the Kings Canyon/Ventura Boulevard to AVENIDA CESAR CHAVEZ. The office of our organization is located on this Corridor.

The Big Fresno Fair located on the Kings Canyon Corridor showcases each year agricultural products and the contributions of farmers and farmworkers proudly showing why Fresno County is the largest agricultural producer in the nation. The naming of the Corridor AVENIDA CESAR CHAVEZ will offer a more permanent recognition of the legacy of Cesar Chavez in improving working conditions for farmworkers and the ongoing acknowledgement and appreciation of the importance of farm workers in our local economy and our City.

We believe the timing of the proposed name change is excellent in light of other activities currently underway along the Corridor. A City-led Transportation Oriented Development Study is currently being implemented with the assistance of SEFCEDA. This project is building on the strengths of the Bus Rapid Transit System and will identify community and economic development

opportunities to promote economic prosperity along this Corridor. SEFCEDA is proud to be part of this process that will include extensive involvement of local business owners and residents.

As the proposed changing of the name of the Corridor is implemented, it is also important that City government continues to invest in this Corridor to make sure the new AVENIDA CESAR CHAVEZ is maintained as a first-class business corridor. SEFCEDA welcomes the City's partnership and funding in helping SEFCEDA expand the implementation of the following programs: Technical assistance for small business owners, a façade improvement project and a workforce development program.

We believe the funding of these programs will help achieve the objectives of the Mayor's ONE CITY initiative by promoting economic prosperity for all in this part of our City.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and we urge you to support the new name of AVENIDA CESAR CHAVEZ for the Ventura/Kings Canyon Corridor.

Jose Leon-Barraza, CEO SEFCEDA, Inc.