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Agenda Item: ID17-192 (4:30 P.M.)

Date: 2/2/17

2017 JAN 30 PM 12 33

CITY CLERK, FRESNO CA

## FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



### Supplemental Information Packet

Agenda Related Item(s) – ID17-192 (4:30 P.M.)

#### Contents of Supplement: Letter of Support Item(s)

Actions related to the Rental Housing Improvement Act and Anti-Slum Enforcement Team:

1. BILL – (for introduction) Adopting the Rental Housing Improvement Act.
2. \*\*\*RESOLUTION – 533rd amendment to the Master Fee Schedule (MFS) Resolution No. 80-420 to add a rental housing inspection fee in the Planning and Development section.

#### **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.

January 30, 2017

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Council President Clint Olivier  
Members of the City Council  
City of Fresno

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Delivered by email

CITY CLERK, FRESNO CA

Dear Council President and Members of the City Council:

Each of the undersigned is a community member and/or professional with experience working with clients with mental illness who must live in a Room and Board Home. We write to voice our strong support for the Rental Housing Improvement Act, which your Council will be considering on February 2.

Room and Board Homes are private businesses that rent to disabled individuals who cannot live on their own, are often too dangerously ill to live with their families, but are not so disabled as to require Board and Care placement. Each resident of a Room and Board Home pays \$650 to \$750 per month, usually through an SSI payee, for the right to occupy a room (with at least one roommate), in a facility that houses 6 to 15 people. The home usually provides one hot meal per day, and may have other food, such as cold cereal, available for the residents. Owners rarely live on the premises, but usually designate one client as the "house manager"

Because these are privately operated, and not Board and Care facilities, no governmental agency licenses or inspects Room and Board Homes. The result is that the residents are often paying for dangerously substandard housing: we have ourselves observed, or learned from concerned family members, that hot water may be shut off to save utility costs; there is a high prevalence of bedbugs, roaches and other vermin; broken windows are often not replaced; plumbing and/or heating that does not work may not be timely repaired.

Residents and family members are afraid to complain, because a complaint often results in the resident being ejected from the Room and Board Home, and there are very few options for relocation.

We know these clients. We know they are unable to advocate for themselves, to protect their own rights to decent housing. We see the anguish of their families whose loved ones must endure these conditions. Therefore, we urge you to adopt and fully fund implementation of the Rental Housing Improvement Act. To do less is to break the covenant you've made to defend and protect all of your constituents—we have confidence you will keep your word to them.

Thank you so much for your attention to this matter. We are requesting you hold this hearing at 4:30 p.m. on February 2, so that families of residents in these homes are able address you about their concerns.

In community,

Carolyn Evans, Vice-Chair, Fresno County Behavioral Health Board

Veronica De Alba, Program Director, Rural Mental Health, Turning Point

Kevin Alvey, MFTI, Transitions Children's Services

Roxanne Baeza, LCSW, Fresno Unified School District

Deonna Villegas-McPeters, Director, Social Work Services, Valley Children's Hospital

Brandy E. Dickey, Secretary, Fresno County Behavioral Health Board

Laurel Barnett, Student, California State University, Fresno

Malia Vang, Student, California State University, Fresno

Marilyn Bamford, Uplift Family Services

Mark Allen, Foster Care Standards and Oversight Commission

Hector Cabrera, LCSW, Central Stars Behavioral Health

Joanne Cox, Fresno County Behavioral Health Board

Karen Levinson, LMFT, Supervisor, Foster Family Agency, Transitions Children's Services

Ryan Banks, M.P.A., Deputy Regional Director Region 7A, Turning Point of Central California

Alfred Evans, Professor Emeritus, California State University, Fresno