

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE
CONTINUANCE OF THE EVICTION PROTECTION
PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City expressed an interest in ensuring residents have access to safe and habitable housing; and

WHEREAS, unlawful detainer actions have been common in Fresno, and the problem was exacerbated by COVID-19 related financial distress; and

WHEREAS, tenants may not understand their rights and defenses to an unlawful detainer action; and

WHEREAS, some of the grounds for unlawful evictions include retaliation for reporting code enforcement violations, violations of the state and recent eviction moratoriums related to COVID-19, other unlawful motivations for eviction, and procedural deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted Resolution 2021–132 on May 13th, 2021, to create the Eviction Protection Program (EPP); and

WHEREAS, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking outside legal counsel to represent Fresno residential tenants facing unlawful eviction; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2022, the City presented its One Fresno Housing Strategy which outlined 47 priorities to address Fresno's three-year housing needs; and

WHEREAS, one of the 47 recommendations contained within the One Fresno Housing Strategy placed priority on preventing displacement by continuing the Eviction Protection Program adding additional one-time allocations from Emergency Rental

1 of 3

Date Adopted:

Date Approved:

Effective Date:

City Attorney Approval: 

Resolution No. _____

Assistance Funds, American Rescue Plan Funds and General Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The City Council acknowledges previous one-time allocations of \$750,000 in Fiscal Year 2022 and \$790,000 in Fiscal Year 2023 from Emergency Rental Assistance funding to the Eviction Protection Program.

2. The City Council also acknowledges motion 37 as part of the fiscal year 23 budget adoption on June 30th, 2022, for an additional \$1,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Funding, and \$210,000 in General Funds to the Eviction Protection Program.

3. The City Attorney shall continue to implement a screening process to review each tenant's case to determine whether the threatened eviction is potentially unlawful.

4. The EPP shall continue to include a multi-language public awareness and outreach component, which may include media, door-to-door, clinics, workshops, and other public outreach methods to inform the public of available resources. Outreach may include contracting with community-based organizations, legal aid agencies, and other non-governmental organizations to support city-wide public outreach.

5. The City Attorney shall continue honoring guidance to issue an RFP seeking an entity to conduct an annual evaluation of the program to determine its effectiveness.

6. The City Attorney shall continue to offer an in-house voluntary

mediation program between landlords and tenants who are facing unlawful eviction, to be staffed primarily by law clerks.

7. The EPP shall remain active to the extent funds are appropriated for the program.

8. This resolution shall be effective upon final approval.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, TODD STERMER, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2022.

AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: _____, 2022
Mayor Approval/No Return: _____, 2022
Mayor Veto: _____, 2022
Council Override Vote: _____, 2022

TODD STERMER, CMC
City Clerk

BY: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RINA M. GONZALES
Interim City Attorney

BY: _____
Tracy N. Parvanian Date
Supervising Deputy City Attorney