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

Date: 2/2/17

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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.

Cindy Bruer

From: Andy Levine <andy@fcpico.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:06 PM
To: Lee Brand; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District6; District7
Cc: Cindy Bruer
Subject: Faith Leaders Letter re: Rental Housing Improvement Act
Attachments: 013117 Housing Letter to Mayor and Council.pdf

Dear Mayor Brand and City Councilmembers,

I hope this finds you doing well. I'm sending (attached) a letter signed by 27 Fresno faith leaders in support for Thursday's proposed Rental Housing Improvement Act. Thanks for your consideration and please do not hesitate to reach out with any further questions or concerns.

In Community,
Andy Levine

January 31, 2017

Dear Mayor Brand and Fresno City Councilmembers:

We, the undersigned Fresno clergy and faith leaders, write with hope from the news that Mayor Brand intends to bring a routine housing inspection program proposal forward for your consideration on Thursday, February 2nd. As you know, this is long overdue and urgently needed not only by tenants living in substandard housing conditions but by our city as a whole. For your reference, we are sending again the letter that many of us wrote to you and then-Mayor Swearingin last December. While we were disappointed in your decision then to delay consideration of a routine inspection program, our sentiments – and the conditions on the ground – remain just as true going into Thursday's vote. We urge you to consider, adopt and urgently implement as strong a routine inspection program as possible. Our communities and your most vulnerable constituents are counting on it.

In Community,

Most Reverend Armando X. Ochoa, D.D., Bishop, Diocese of Fresno
Rt. Rev. David Rice, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin
Rev. Tim Kutzmark, Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno
Rev. Norman Broadbent, United Church of Christ/Interfaith Alliance
Imam Abdul Shahid Muhammad, Muslim American Chaplain Association
Rabbi Rick Winer, Temple Beth Israel
Rev. Jonathan Villalobos, Bethany Inner City Church
Jim Grant, Social Justice Ministry Director, Diocese of Fresno
Reza Nekumanesh, Director, Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno
Deacon Matthew Ari Jendian, Armenian Orthodox Church
Rev. Nancy Key, St. James Episcopal Cathedral
Msgr. Raymond C. Dreiling, Vicar General, Diocese of Fresno
Rev. Karen Stoffers-Pugh, Wesley United Methodist Church
Rev. Gordon Smith, Mennonite Community Church
Rev. Lawrence Chisom, St. Matthew Baptist Church
Deacon Allan Jendian, Armenian Orthodox Church
Rev. Sophia DeWitt
Rev. Zach Darrah, Executive Director, FIRM
Father Art Gramaje, C.M.F., St. Anthony Mary Claret
Rev. Simon Biasell, Woven Community PCUSA
Rabbi Laura Winer
Rev. Kathleen A. Denman, First Congregational Church of Fresno, UCC
Rev. Booker T. Lewis II, Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Cn. Anna Carmichael, Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin
Deacon John Supino, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center
Rev. Ara Guekguezian, First Congregational United Church of Christ
Rev. Steve Ratzlaff

December 1, 2016

Dear Mayor Swearengin and Fresno City Councilmembers:

As clergy and faith leaders representing congregations and communities across various faiths, backgrounds and corners of our city, we write to you today to urge you to bring forward, pass and begin implementing a housing inspection program proposal before the end of December. For years, you and we have known that we have faced a true crisis of substandard rental housing in Fresno, where far too many families – including many of those we serve and love – are trapped in rental housing conditions that are unsafe, unhealthy, unethical and against the law. While there are many reasons and factors for this, one is that we have left the City of Fresno off the hook from its responsibility to enforce state habitability standards. Sadly, it took the crisis at Summerset last winter to reveal just how real, serious and threatening substandard housing could be.

Much has already been made of the economic costs – to the City, taxpayers, landlords who are doing right by their tenants – and health costs – to tenants and indirectly to all of us – of substandard housing. But, as faith leaders representing a range of traditions and teachings, we are particularly pained by the moral costs of this crisis. We believe and know that every individual in our city deserves the right to human dignity, a safe and warm roof over their head, and elected representatives who will stand up on their behalf.

While we are thankful for the Mayor's Code Enforcement Task Force - including the research and best practice models from countless other cities across the country that have been discussed for the past year – the time is now for comprehensive, proactive action. Frankly, it is long overdue. We are encouraged to hear Mayor Swearengin's intention to bring forward a proposal before the end of the year. We hope that it includes a baseline inspection of all rental housing properties, followed by a routine, but fair and strategic schedule for subsequent oversight of properties that allows for follow-up of properties and owners found to have violations, as well as incentives and rewards for the many properties and owners who are clearly playing by the rules. Until then, we have no way of knowing how many other Summersets are out there today, waiting to be the next crisis.

We pray that all seven Councilmembers will follow the clear research and listen to the cries of our most vulnerable residents and support the strongest possible baseline inspection program this year.

In Community,

Rabbi Rick Winer, Temple Beth Israel
Most Reverend Armando X. Ochoa, D.D., Bishop, Diocese of Fresno
Rev. Booker T. Lewis II, Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church
Deacon Matthew Ari Jendian, Ph. D., Armenian Orthodox Church

Rev. Sharon Avril, Carter Memorial, President-elect of West Fresno Ministerial Alliance
Rev. Zach Darrah, Executive Director, FIRM
Father Art Gramaje, C.M.F., St. Anthony Mary Claret
Rev. DJ Criner, Saint Rest Baptist Church
Rev. Tim Kutzmark, Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno
Rev. Monsignor Robert D. Wenzinger, Saint Anthony of Padua
Deacon Bill Lucido, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center
Rev. Gordon Smith, Mennonite Community Church
Rev. Bill Knezovich, Our Saviours Lutheran Church
Rev. Steve Ratzlaff
Dr. Janine Nkosi, Fresno State
Rev. Simon Biasell, Woven Community PCUSA
Rev. Kathleen A. Denman, First Congregational Church of Fresno, UCC
Deacon Allan Y. Jendian, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church
Rev. Norman Broadbent, First Congregational Church of Fresno, UCC