

Johnson, Krista

From: noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 6:56 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

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Live Form

Topic Tenant's Bill of Rights

BCC Agenda Date 8-2-2022

Your Stand on the Issue Support

Comments

I am urging you to support a strong Tenant Bill of Rights here in Pinellas county. It is important that a robust prohibition on income discrimination is passed without loopholes or exceptions, and that it does not allow individual cities to opt out. The objections raised by corporate interests like the Bay Area Apartment Association are completely disingenuous and should not be given precedence over the rights of working class tenants. The majority of those who receive vouchers through the Pinellas County Housing Authority are extremely low income & non-white. Allowing landlords to unscrupulously deny voucher recipients is a tacit endorsement of class & racial discrimination by the Pinellas county government. Any risk or cost to landlords by prohibiting income discrimination pales in comparison to that of low income tenants, who currently face homelessness & material suffering due to an uneven playing field. In addition, I would like to see the notice of rent increase portion changed from 60 days to 6 months for all lease types, including month-to-month. Please vote yes and pass a strong countywide Tenant Bill of Rights tonight without any of the provisions demanded by the landlord lobby.

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Johnson, Krista

From: noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 10:03 AM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

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Topic Tenant Bill of Rights

BCC Agenda Date 8-2-2022

Your Stand on the Issue Support

Comments

I am urging you to support a strong Tenant Bill of Rights here in Pinellas county. It is important that a robust prohibition on income discrimination is passed without loopholes or exceptions, and that it does not allow individual cities to opt out. The objections raised by corporate interests like the Bay Area Apartment Association are completely disingenuous and should not be given precedence over the rights of working class tenants. The majority of those who receive vouchers through the Pinellas County Housing Authority are extremely low income & non-white. Allowing landlords to unscrupulously deny voucher recipients is a tacit endorsement of class & racial discrimination by the Pinellas county government. Any risk or cost to landlords by prohibiting income discrimination pales in comparison to that of low income tenants, who currently face homelessness & material suffering due to an uneven playing field. In addition, I would like to see the notice of rent increase portion changed from 60 days to 6 months for all lease types, including month-to-month. The fact that all of our lives depend solely upon the grace (or lack thereof) of our landlords is disgusting. Purchasing a home in this county is no longer feasible for any member of the working class, so this is all we have left. I'm lucky that my landlord has raised my rent a small amount, but if I had to find a new apartment in this economy, I would be in an extremely sticky situation. Income discrimination is cruel, and at this point seeing as the minimum wage in the area is \$11, even a full time job (ignoring for the moment that many employers will depend upon part time employees and refuse to provide more hours to avoid providing benefits) would result in 1760 Before tax. Since 3x rent is regularly required, 586 is the most this individual could afford. And there are no studios, let alone houses with bedrooms, available for this much in the city. The Tenants Bill of Rights is the absolute least the city could do to stand with its residents - many of whom have been here for a long time and only recently fell into hardship. Take the right action for our people. And please understand - since landlords' income is passive, you

will likely hear so many of their voices that it seems the tenants are not invested. Please understand that they can afford to spend the time and energy fighting things like this - in fact, it is part of their workday - while many tenants either cannot attend since we are working, some of us do not have computers or are not technologically savvy, some of us are disabled, and others just are not aware this is happening. Of course we do all we can to spread knowledge, but it is almost impossible for the working class to personally be involved in every fight affecting their basic rights these days. So please understand that for every comment you get in support of the Tenants Bill of Rights, there are at least a hundred more silent voices that you do not hear. Please vote yes and pass a strong countywide Tenant Bill of Rights tonight without any of the provisions demanded by the landlord lobby.

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