

IF WE CAN'T PAY RENT
THE ONLY OPTION IS A

RENT STRIKE



ORGANIZE YOUR BUILDING

MAY 1ST

#CANCELRENT



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WHAT IS A RENT STRIKE?

A RENT STRIKE is a group of tenants withholding rent. In the current pandemic, we are in we can't pay rent if we don't have an income! People shouldn't have to choose between having a roof or having food on the table. Many throughout the city, state, and nation will not be able to pay rent on May 1st.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE! If you can't pay your rent you won't be evicted but you must follow some steps to protect yourself. There are various laws at the local and state level that protect you from eviction.

If you can't pay then STRIKE make it known and empower others to organize.

ORGANIZE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS!



CONTEXT

MILLIONS ARE LOSING INCOME. UNLESS RENT AND MORTGAGE PAYMENTS COMING DUE DURING THIS CRISIS ARE FORGIVEN, WE WILL SEE MASS EVICTIONS AND FORECLOSURES THE LIKES OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN BEFORE – AT LEAST NOT SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION. ACROSS THE COUNTRY, PEOPLE AND GROUPS ARE UNITED TO DEMAND THIS KIND OF RELIEF.

THE CENTER FOR POPULAR DEMOCRACY, RIGHT TO THE CITY, AND PEOPLE’S ACTION, THREE LARGE NATIONAL NETWORKS OF COMMUNITY GROUPS, HAVE TAKEN UP THIS DEMAND. THE EVICTION MORATORIUMS BEING PASSED HELP IN THE IMMEDIATE TERM, BUT THEY KICK THE CAN DOWN THE ROAD – THE MISSED PAYMENTS ARE STILL OWED. RENTERS AND HOMEOWNERS ARE BEING SADDLED WITH NEW DEBT THAT, IN SO MANY CASES, THEY CANNOT PAY. OUR MEMBERS, OUR ORGANIZATIONS, AND INCREASINGLY THE PUNDITS, KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE.



A MESSAGE TO LANDLORDS

IF YOU ARE READING THIS WE ARE ALSO SUPPORTING THE FORGIVENESS OF MORTGAGES. WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS A HARD TIME FOR PEOPLE! YES, PEOPLE, NOT CORPORATIONS! THEY HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY TO CONTINUE THEIR OPERATIONS REGARDLESS IF RENT IS PAID OR NOT!

FOR THE SMALL MOM AND POP LANDLORD WE STAND WITH YOU AND PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR TENANTS THE BEST WAY YOU CAN. CALL ON YOUR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO FORGIVE MORTGAGES.

DURING THIS TIME WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT TENANTS AGAINST ANY INJUSTICE THAT HAPPENS DURING THIS PANDEMIC.



WHO SHOULD STRIKE?

IDEALLY EVERYONE SHOULD STRIKE TO HELP CREATE A BIGGER VOICE AND ELEVATE #CANCELRENT! WE RECOMMEND THOSE WHO CANNOT PAY RENT TO STRIKE AND MAKE A CALL TO LOCAL OFFICIALS AND LET THEM KNOW WHY YOU'RE STRIKING! CALL ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO USE IT'S EMERGENCY POWERS TO FORGIVE DEBT!

IMPORTANT: ONLY WITHHOLD YOUR RENT BEGINNING MAY 1ST IF THIS WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF BEING EVICTED.

WHO THEN, SHOULD STRIKE? THE LARGEST GROUP OF STRIKERS ARE THOSE WHO ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO PAY!

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE SOME WHO ARE "STRIKING" IN SOLIDARITY BECAUSE THEY FEEL CONFIDENT THAT HOLDING BACK THEIR MAY RENT WILL NOT LEAD TO THEM BEING EVICTED.



STEPS TO ORGANIZE YOUR BUILDING

1. ASSESS YOUR SITUATION
2. GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS
3. SET UP COMMUNICATION
4. CHECK-IN WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS
5. ORGANIZE A MEETING
6. HAVE THE MEETING
7. REACH AN AGREEMENT/BECOME A UNION
8. PUT UP A SIGN ON YOUR WINDOW WITH THE HASHTAG #CANCELRENT
9. SIGN UP WITH LIBRE AND STAY INFORMED
10. STICK TOGETHER TALK TO EACH OTHER AND UNLEASH YOUR POWER AS A UNION



WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ORGANIZE

1. NOT EVERYONE WILL BE ON BOARD DUE TO FEAR OR PERSONAL SITUATION
2. LANDLORD MAY BEGIN TO INTIMIDATE MOST VULNERABLE TENANTS :
 - a. LOW-INCOME, PEOPLE OF COLOR, SENIORS, SECTION 8, OR IMMIGRANT TENANTS.
3. NEIGHBORS WILL PAY RENT OR NOT JOIN THE TENANT UNION
4. NOTICE TO PAY OR QUIT
5. 60-DAY NOTICE

YOU'RE NOT ALONE MILLIONS ARE WITH YOU!



CHECKLIST FOR A SUCCESSFUL MEETING

1. INVITE ALL YOUR NEIGHBORS
2. SET A MEETING DATE AND TIME
3. SET UP A CALL (LiBRE can assist)
4. PREPARE MEETING AGENDA (Keep it simple)
5. EMAIL OR TEXT AGENDA
6. HAVE THE MEETING
7. REACH A GOAL/OBJECTIVE
8. SET A FOLLOW UP MEETING/AGREE ON
NEXT STEPS

STEPS TO RENT STRIKE

1. MEET WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS
2. REACH A DECISION
3. RESEARCH LOCAL AND STATE LAWS
4. LOOK FOR LEGAL RESOURCE/SUPPORT FROM LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
5. SEND LETTER TO LANDLORD
6. COMMUNICATE WITH NEIGHBORS
7. CALL ON YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL REP AND MAYOR TO ENACT LOCAL POLICIES THAT FORGIVE RENT!
8. STRIKE MAY 1ST!



SAMPLE LETTER TO LANDLORD

Tenants Address

Landlord/Property Owner/Property Manager (Address)

To whom it may concern:

I, _____, am a tenant residing at
_____.

This letter notifies you that at this time I am unable to pay some or all my rent. My inability to pay arises from a substantial decrease in household income and/or substantial medical expenses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, or by a local, state or federal government response to COVID-19.

My inability to pay and its connection to COVID-19 are supported by my signed certification, attached, and by any other documents I have attached.

Pursuant to Long Beach Municipal Code Chapter 8.100, a tenant may not be evicted for nonpayment of rent when the inability to pay is due to impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. For such instances, Long Beach has adopted a moratorium on evictions through May 31, 2020. Beginning June 1, 2020, Long Beach is also requiring that you give me 6 months to pay you back rent owed, so that it is paid by November 30, 2020.

Sincerely,

Tenant signature

Date

WHAT TO DO IF THE LANDLORD STARTS TO RETALIATE

1. REACH OUT TO LIBRE
2. GET CONNECTED WITH LEGAL RESOURCES
3. COMMUNICATE WITH NEIGHBORS LET THEM
KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING.
4. SEE IF ANYONE ELSE HAD A SIMILAR
EXPERIENCE.
5. SEND LETTER TO LANDLORD LETTING THEM
KNOW HARASSMENT IS NOT ALLOWED UNDER
CALIFORNIA LAW (LIBRE CAN ASSIST)
6. CALL CITY COUNCIL REP AND LET THEM KNOW
WHAT HAS HAPPENED IF ACTIONS CONTINUE



LOCAL LONG BEACH ORDINANCE AS OF 4/22/2020

IF YOU ARE A TENANT WHO HAS BEEN IMPACTED BY COVID-19 (REDUCED WAGES OR INCOME, LOSS OF WORK, INCREASED MEDICAL COSTS) AND ARE UNABLE TO PAY ALL OR PART OF YOUR RENT, YOU HAVE NEW PROTECTIONS AND OBLIGATIONS THAT CAN PROTECT YOU FROM EVICTION:

THESE NEW PROTECTIONS ARE RETROACTIVE TO MARCH 4, 2020 AND LAST THROUGH MAY 31, 2020

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PAY SOME OR ALL OF YOUR RENT, YOU MUST NOTIFY THE LANDLORD BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF YOUR 3 DAY NOTICE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

YOU HAVE HAD A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN INCOME AND/OR INCREASE IN MEDICAL COSTS; AND
YOU MUST ALSO SEND YOUR LANDLORD SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION OF YOUR DECREASE IN INCOME AND/OR INCREASE IN MEDICAL COSTS.

IF YOU COMPLY WITH #1 AND #2 ABOVE IN A TIMELY MANNER, YOUR LANDLORD CANNOT EVICT YOU FOR NONPAYMENT OF RENT OR CHARGE YOU FOR LATE FEES. IF YOU ARE SERVED WITH AN UNLAWFUL DETAINER (EVICTION) LAWSUIT, YOU WILL STILL NEED TO FILE AN ANSWER WITH THE COURT, BUT YOU WILL HAVE DEFENSE WITH THIS NEW LAW.

WHEN THE EVICTION MORATORIUM ENDS ON MAY 31, 2020, YOUR LANDLORD MUST GIVE YOU 6 MONTHS TO PAY BACK RENT OWED. YOU MUST WORK OUT A PAYMENT PLAN WITH YOUR LANDLORD SO ALL OF YOUR BACK RENT OWED IS PAID BY NOVEMBER 30, 2020.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH ALSO PASSED A MORATORIUM ON SECTION 8 TERMINATIONS FROM MARCH 4 - MAY 31, 2020 FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RENT.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL RULE

4/06/2020

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL ADOPTED AN EMERGENCY RULE THAT EFFECTIVELY STOPS ALL EVICTIONS EXCEPT THOSE NECESSARY TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.

THE RULE IS APPLICABLE TO ALL COURTS AND TO ALL EVICTION CASES.

THIS RULE WILL APPLY UNTIL 90 DAYS AFTER THE GOVERNOR LIFTS THE STATE OF EMERGENCY RELATED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

- PROHIBITS COURTS FROM ISSUING A SUMMONS AFTER A LANDLORD FILES AN EVICTION CASE.
- THE 5 DAYS FOR THE TENANT TO RESPOND WILL BEGIN WHEN THE RULE IS LIFTED
- NO DEFAULT JUDGEMENTS WILL BE ENTERED UNLESS THE COURT FINDS THE CASE IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
- FOR EVICTIONS WHERE THE TENANT HAS ALREADY RESPONDED THERE WILL BE NO CASE TILL 60 DAYS AFTER A TRIAL IS REQUESTED.
- ANY TRIAL IN AN EVICTION CASE WILL BE SET FOR 60 DAYS AFTER THE INITIAL TRIAL DATE.



RESOURCES

FOLLOW LIBRE ON

FACEBOOK: LONG BEACH RESIDENTS EMPOWERED

INSTAGRAM : @WEARELBRE

OVER THE PHONE HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING COVID-19

3PM-6PM

CALL:3234395224

ANOTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCE

LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES

APPLY ONLINE: [LAFLA.ORG/GET-HELP](https://lafla.org/get-help)

CALL LAFLA: 800-399-4529

