

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
MEMORANDUM

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson

FROM: Councilmember Elissa Silverman



RE: Request to Place Measures on the Agenda for the September 22, 2020 Regular Legislative Meeting

DATE: September 17, 2020

I am requesting that the following draft measures be agendized for the September 22, 2020 Regular Legislative Meeting:

- **Eviction Notice Moratorium Emergency Act of 2020**
- **Eviction Notice Moratorium Temporary Act of 2020**

The measures, co-introduced by Councilmember Anita Bonds, are necessary to protect tenants from informal evictions during the period of the eviction moratorium related to the Mayor's declaration of a public health emergency. According to testimony offered at the Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization's Tenant Protection and Eviction Prevention roundtable on September 14, 2020, rental housing providers continue to issue notices to vacate during the period of the eviction moratorium. These notices, which are necessary precursors to evictions in normal times, are currently unenforceable due to the eviction moratorium. However, tenants who receive an official notice to vacate from their landlord often move, despite the eviction moratorium.

Prohibiting notices to vacate during the period of the eviction moratorium would prevent unnecessary moves the Council has already taken action to try to avoid, as well as strengthening the District's efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus and protecting vulnerable residents. A prohibition on notices to vacate may improve equity of the eviction moratorium for immigrant renters, who more likely to experience informal than formal evictions. The measures would not retroactively apply to notices already issued.

A copy of the measures is attached. Please contact Maya Brennan, Housing Policy Advisor, mbrennan@dccouncil.us with any questions.

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia
Office of the Secretary
Office of the General Counsel
Office of the Budget Director
Mayor's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs