

## **IMPACT STATEMENT**

**Legislation title:** \*Adopt emergency temporary moratorium on evictions due to nonpayment of rent for residential tenants where the failure to pay results from wage loss due to COVID-19 (Ordinance)

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**Presenter name:** Robert Taylor, Chief Deputy City Attorney

### **Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

As explained in the ordinance, an unprecedented public health emergency is affecting the City in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. The state, county, and city have all declared states of emergency in response to the pandemic.

The City Council adopted this ordinance on an emergency basis in response to the pandemic. Consistent with the City Charter and as permitted by City Code, the City Council suspended the rules by a unanimous vote so this matter not appearing on the agenda could be heard immediately. The Council also waived by implied consent without objection the requirement for an impact statement to be filed with the emergency ordinance to address the pandemic. This impact statement is being prepared on March 19, 2020, by the City Attorney's Office by way of supplemental information to document the emergency procedure used for this ordinance.

This ordinance is a temporary moratorium intended to promote stability and fairness within the residential rental market in the City during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, and to prevent avoidable homelessness thereby serving the public peace, health, and public welfare and to enable tenants in the City, whose income and ability to work is affected due to COVID-19, to remain in their homes.

Displacement through eviction destabilizes the living situation of tenants and impacts the health of Portland residents by uprooting children from school, and disrupting the social ties and networks that are integral to citizens' welfare and the stability of communities within the City.

During the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, affected tenants who have lost income due to impact on the economy or their unemployment may be at risk of homelessness if they are evicted for non-payment as they will have little or no income and thus be unable to secure other housing if evicted.

The City is already in a declared state of housing emergency and an acceleration of evictions throughout the City will increase the current housing crisis.

Multnomah County has also issued a similar moratorium on residential evictions.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to bring the City and Multnomah County into alignment and uniformity so the same rules for residential eviction moratoria apply throughout the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

**Financial and budgetary impacts:**

The COVID-19 pandemic will likely have significant, but currently unknown, financial and budgetary impacts on the City which are likely far greater than any impact by this ordinance.

**Community impacts and community involvement:**

The community has and will be impacted in significant and unprecedented ways by this pandemic, and this ordinance is intended to reduce the risk of an increased number of people experiencing houseless during the pandemic.

**100% Renewable Goal:**

N/A

**Budgetary Impact Worksheet**

**Does this action change appropriations?**

**YES:** Please complete the information below.

**NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount