

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MEDIA ADVISORY

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## SUPERVISORS CHAN & CARSON PROPOSE TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS CAUSED BY COVID-19

*Forthcoming Ordinance to Protect Residents Experiencing Income Loss due to Health Emergency*

**Oakland, CA** – Supervisors Wilma Chan and Keith Carson today introduced a directive for County staff to create an ordinance providing a temporary 30-day moratorium on evictions in the Unincorporated Areas of Alameda County resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. **This directive was passed with a unanimous 4-0 vote** – with one absence – by the full Board of Supervisors at today’s Board meeting, which came the day after Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order authorizing local governments to halt evictions for renters and homeowners.

The forthcoming ordinance will prevent renters in the Unincorporated Areas from being evicted if they can demonstrate a substantial loss of income as a result of COVID-19. This could include loss of employment, reduction of compensated work hours, workplace closure, the need to care for a home-bound school-age child, or similar hardships that impact an individual’s earning ability. The ordinance, which would join similar measures in Oakland and Hayward, will take effect immediately upon adoption and may be extended beyond 30 days at the Board’s discretion. The Board also directed staff to include a temporary foreclosure ban in the ordinance.

“One of our foremost obligations during this time of emergency is to protect individuals and families whose livelihoods have been threatened by the spread of the Coronavirus,” Supervisor Chan said. “Given these extraordinary circumstances, as well as the homelessness crisis our County has already been facing, we must take every appropriate step to ensure that our residents remain housed and secure throughout this pandemic.”

On March 10, 2020, the Board of Supervisors declared a public health emergency in Alameda County as a result of COVID-19. Over the last few weeks, numerous industries Countywide and statewide have experienced closures or reductions in operation due to the pandemic – including hospitality, retail, entertainment, and gig economies – which has resulted in loss of employment or income for many employees. In addition, nine school districts in Alameda County have closed or suspended in-class instruction as of March 13, which has placed an additional burden on employed parents and caregivers.

The Unincorporated Areas of Alameda County consist of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, Hayward Acres, San Lorenzo, and Sunol. Once the ordinance takes effect, renters in those communities will be required to provide documentation or other verifiable means to demonstrate loss of income due to the declared emergency related to COVID-19, and must notify landlords on or before the day that rent is due that they are experiencing a substantial loss of income resulting from the pandemic.

“Keeping in step with local leadership, this eviction moratorium ordinance for our Unincorporated Areas will be a crucial piece to make sure our residents are not further destabilized in their housing or pushed into homelessness,” Supervisor Carson said. “The presence of COVID-19 in the community has created wage loss, childcare gaps and health risks – the last thing our residents need is housing instability.”

The ordinance will be drafted by Alameda County’s Community Development Agency, Health Care Services Agency, and Office of County Counsel. In addition to the eviction moratorium, these departments have been directed to work with apartment associations to advocate with relevant agencies to provide temporary relief for unpaid landlords during the moratorium. Such measures could come in the form of forgiveness on property taxes, utility charges, and foreclosures. County staff will also examine the feasibility of including a 120-day period for tenants impacted by COVID-19 to become current on past due rent.

As of today, a three-week Shelter-In-Place order has been issued for Alameda County, which directs residents to remain indoors and only leave for essential needs during that period. To date, 18 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Alameda County, with that number expected to rise in the coming weeks as more accessible and effective testing methods are introduced. For more information on the County’s response to the COVID-19 crisis, please visit the following link: <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/resources/community.aspx>

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**About Supervisor Wilma Chan**

Alameda County Supervisor Chan represents District 3, which includes the cities of Alameda, San Leandro, parts of Oakland including Chinatown, Jack London, Fruitvale and San Antonio neighborhoods, and the unincorporated communities of San Lorenzo and Hayward Acres. She is currently Chair of the Health Committee and ALL IN Steering Committee, and a member of the County's Personnel, Administrative, and Legislative Committee, the Budget Workgroup, the Unincorporated Services Committee, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights. For more on Supervisor Chan's accomplishments and initiatives, please visit [www.acgov.gov/board/district3](http://www.acgov.gov/board/district3) or connect on Facebook with "Supervisor Wilma Chan."