



UPDATE ON REFERENDUM PETITION
CHALLENGING RENT STABILIZATION AND
OTHER TENANT PROTECTION ORDINANCE
NO. 4072, ADOPTED ON AUGUST 30, 2016

City Council Meeting
October 11, 2016

Teresa L. Stricker, Interim City Attorney
Daisy Gomez, City Clerk

BACKGROUND

- On September 26, 2016, the Petition was filed with the City Clerk. The Petition challenges all provisions of the Ordinance except for one: The Petition does not challenge the provision of the Ordinance that repealed both the 90-day moratorium on rent increases which took effect on July 7, 2016, and the Just Cause Eviction Ordinance which took effect on September 16, 2016.

BACKGROUND

- The Registrar will complete the review process, which includes (1) a prima facie (“on its face”) examination of the Petition and (2) a determination of whether the Petition contains a sufficient number of signatures of qualified voters. The City Clerk also submitted to the Registrar the 151 letters the City Clerk had received prior to the Petition’s filing from individuals requesting to have their signatures removed from the Petition.

SUMMARY

Currently, the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters (“Registrar”) is in the process of reviewing the Petition to determine whether it contains a sufficient number of signatures of qualified voters.

- If the Registrar determines that the petition is insufficient, the challenged portions of the Ordinance will then take effect at the next City Council meeting once the City Clerk reports the Registrar’s determination.

SUMMARY

- If the Registrar determines that the petition is sufficient, the City Council must decide whether to (1) repeal the challenged portions of the Ordinance or (2) submit the issue to the voters at the November 2018 general election or sooner at a special election. If the Ordinance is submitted to the voters, the Ordinance will not take effect unless and until the voters approve it.