

City of Santa Rosa



Legislation Details

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| File #: | 21-0493 | Version: | 1 | Name: | Eviction Ordinance |
| Type: | CC- Report | Status: | | Status: | Agenda Ready |
| File created: | 5/17/2021 | In control: | | In control: | City Council |
| On agenda: | 6/8/2021 | Final action: | | Final action: | |
| Title: | REPORT - EVICTION ORDINANCE | | | | |

BACKGROUND: Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused tremendous financial hardship in our community. Many have faced substantial loss of income or significant out-of-pocket medical expenses. Among those hardest hit are residential tenants unable to meet their rent obligations due to COVID-related financial loss.

On March 24, 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted the County of Sonoma Eviction Defense Ordinance (Ordinance 6301), prohibiting residential evictions for failure to pay rent, if that failure was due to COVID-related financial loss. The Ordinance was expressly intended to apply, and has applied, throughout the County, including in both incorporated and unincorporated areas.

On February 9, 2021, the Board of Supervisors amended the County's Eviction Defense Ordinance to prohibit all evictions except (a) when necessary due to violence or threats to the health or safety of another, (b) when sought for the purpose of immediately removing the unit from the rental market, or (c) when based on non-payment of rent unrelated to financial hardships resulting from COVID-19. The amendments are intended to apply throughout the County, absent alternative action by a city.

On April 6, 2021, the Council conducted a study session on residential eviction protections, including the County's February 2021 amendment to its Eviction Defense Ordinance. The Council gave direction to staff to return to the Council with a proposed City ordinance that would continue tenant protections in alignment with the County's original Ordinance without inclusion of the recent amendments.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Council consider adoption of an urgency ordinance to prohibit residential evictions for failure to pay rent due to specified COVID-related financial loss, in alignment with County of Sonoma Ordinance No. 6301 as originally adopted on March 24, 2020.

Sponsors:

Indexes: Not a Project

Code sections: 15378 - Not a Project

Attachments: 1. Staff Report, 2. Attachment 1 - Sonoma County Ord 6301, 3. Attachment 2 - Sonoma County Ord 6337, 4. Urgency Ordinance, 5. Presentation, 6. REVISED Presentation (Uploaded 6-8-2021), 7. Late Correspondence (Uploaded 6-8-2021)

| Date | Ver. | Action By | Action | Result |
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| 6/8/2021 | 1 | City Council | continue | Pass |