

**Baumb, Nelly**

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**From:** Guillaume Bienaime <guillaumebienaime@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 10:14 AM  
**To:** Council, City

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To all city council members,

I am reaching out to see if any of the following measures have been discussed, and ask for them to be considered if not.

- Can the city allow us to not make utilities payments on time this month, without penalties or shut-off of our services.
- Can you consider denying landlords the ability to evict commercial tenants as you did with residential tenants.

Thank you,

Guillaume

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Guillaume Bienaimé

Proprietor

Zola

[zolapa.com](http://zolapa.com)

[barzolapa.com](http://barzolapa.com)

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Kevin Ma <kevinma.sd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 9:01 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** On the Ban on Evictions

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Dear City Council and Staff,

I would like to thank the city for taking immediate, direct action to help our community with the passing of the urgency ordinance to ban evictions. As we have seen, there has been great support for such a measure, given it has been enacted at the state and county levels now. And not a moment too soon, given how the crisis seems to be worsening currently.

I see from the Coronavirus Daily Report that there is discussion to "align it more closely with the County regulation." Whatever occurs from this, it should not be a weakening of any protection currently. I understand that there is an argument of consistency, but it should be done in a way that provides benefit rather than retracts. Additionally, there would already be some form of preemption/override if there are conflicts with the new state and county implementations. And the related argument of "confusion" can be alleviated with the Daily Report/AlertSCC, or with local media like any other council-directed action.

Related, I would like to bring council's attention to a future issue. At the end of the 120 days post-emergency, there will be hardship for those who need to make up for lost wages to pay back rent, especially hard given we don't see how long this emergency will last and the current pains in our economy. The county's \$11m relief fund for renters has already been [drained in two days](#). Action will need to be taken to prevent a wave of later evictions and perhaps landlord bankruptcies, potentially leading to a community that replaces closed shops with emptied homes.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Ma

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** John Foster <johnxfoster@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 11:06 AM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Small Business Lease Moratorium

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Palo Alto City Council Members

Thank you for your efforts last week to provide protections for home renters/owners and small businesses.

I was hopeful that these efforts would help us get through these extraordinary times and help able us to resume business when the virus had passed. After speaking with our property manager, who represents the ownership of the shopping center where we operate our hair salon, I realized we need much greater financial protection. He basically told us the owners of the shopping center were not getting any financial relief from their commercial mortgage lender, Aetna, so they would not be able to give us any financial relief.

Thanks to your earlier council efforts we are not in danger of eviction at this time, but we will never recover from extended months of no business.

Low interest disaster relief loans, Facebook grants, insurance claims, are all being looked into, however, I am starting with you to ask you to bang the drum for a from-the-top-down mortgage pause. Hoping your collective voice will know where to best direct this plea for help.

Editorial from SF Chronicle this morning:

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/A-rent-and-mortgage-moratorium-can-stop-the-next-15157819.php>

Thank you,

John Foster  
Monica Foster Salon

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Faith Brigel <faithwb3@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:40 PM  
**To:** Council, City; Clerk, City  
**Subject:** Issue re virus and renters for April 6th meeting

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Dear City Council;

The current situation of the Covid-19 is making life extremely difficult for all Palo Alto residents. I certainly sympathize with the people who are losing their jobs because of it.

It is exceedingly important for people to remain sheltered in their homes and apartments so that we can slow down the growth of this virus. And toward this end, a number of cities have placed a moratorium on evictions for the next 30 days. I fully support this effort.

I understand that this issue will be explored at your April 6th meeting. I send this email to share my view.

If the city of Palo Alto is considering a regulation on moratorium of evictions, I recommend that the City Council consider a rule similar to Los Angeles. Individual renters must be able to show that they cannot pay their rent because of the pandemic and they need to notify their landlord in writing within 7 days after the rent is due. The rent would still be payable just delayed.

This protects the tenant but also the homeowner, whose expenses do not stop, and are not reduced.

We all need to work together to get through this and any regulations need to be fair to both the tenant and the homeowner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Faith

Faith W. Brigel  
Palo Alto

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Randy Tsuda <rtsuda@pah.community>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:09 AM  
**To:** Shikada, Ed; Council, City  
**Cc:** Sheryl Klein  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Rental Assistance

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Mayor and Members of the City Council, and City Manager:

I hope you are all able to stay healthy and safe during this time. I wanted to thank you for your leadership during this current pandemic. During this unprecedented crisis, we realize how blessed we are to have leaders like yourself who are truly dedicated to public service. Local government in the Bay Area can be proud of its responsiveness to the Coronavirus situation and the critical balance it has struck between safety and service.

I wanted to quickly touch base with you on the issue of rental assistance. Many lower-income residents have experienced a devastating loss of income stemming from the COVID-19 shelter in place order. Few question the need for the order; however, the resulting financial impacts fall disproportionately on families and individuals in our community making the least money. As you have heard, the County-wide income assistance fund was launched last Monday with \$11 million in donations administered by Sacred Heart Community Services. That fund was exhausted within days. And, we are only beginning week three of the COVID-19 shelter in place order which was just extended through May 3 at a minimum.

We are hopeful that additional money will be raised for the County-wide fund. Closer to home, I want to encourage the City of Palo Alto to allocate funds to LifeMoves to provide rental assistance specifically for Palo Alto residents. As I indicated in my email to the City Council last week, it is essential that ample funding be available for rental and income assistance for the duration of this crisis. Without rental assistance, it is highly unlikely many residents would be able to pay rent in total or in part for the duration of this health crisis. Nor will most residents be able to repay accumulated rent owed through a payment plan.

Palo Alto Housing (PAH) is contacting each of our residents to check-in on their household situations, provide referrals and support, and inquire about their income status. We have a few residents we have not reached yet. At this point, it appears that 25-30% of PAH households (roughly 175) are experiencing a significant income loss that compromises their ability to pay rent. Beyond rental assistance, PAH has committed to providing food for over 200 of our residents, twice per month, in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank. Plus, we are raising money and re-designating other unencumbered funds to provide additional direct financial assistance for food and household items.

Rental assistance, however, remains elusive and is urgently needed. Would it be possible for the City to allocate funds to LifeMoves for rental assistance to Palo Alto residents? As a point of reference, the City Mountain View has approved \$1.3 million for COVID-19 relief efforts, including \$500,000 for rental assistance that will be administered by the CSA.

Thank you for considering this request.

Randy

**RANDY TSUDA, *President & CEO***

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BUILDING STORIES THAT MATTER

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Forrest Byram <forrestbyram@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:11 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Subject:** Delaying home renter evictions

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Dear Mayor Fine and members of the City Council,

I am writing to ask that you find a way to keep renters in their homes. With the current health emergency, many people have no income and are unable to pay their rent. I hope you are able to find a way for them to make their payments at a later date. I am not suggesting that they never pay, only that it be delayed. I understand that this will cause problems for those who need to receive the rent, etc, but having people evicted is probably not the best way to go.

I live in San Francisco and am fortunate to be in a financial situation where I can ride this out for a while. I have a colleague in Palo Alto who is not as fortunate as I. We are free lance classical musicians and as soon as this hit all our work evaporated. I suspect we were among the first financial victims, if you will forgive that term. This is a very hard working person who I seem to see just about everywhere I play. He also does some very time consuming, inadequately salaried administrative work for one of the regional orchestras. If you will excuse the expression, he busts his butt making a living. Because he is fairly young, he hasn't had a chance to build up the resources that I have. It is highly unlikely that he will be able to pay his rent. Unfortunately, many musicians I know are in this situation. Free lance musicians only get paid when they work and there is no work.

I know that many people are in the position of not being able to pay their rent right now. I hope you can help them out in a way that is fair to everyone involved.

Yours most sincerely,

Forrest Byram

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Angie Evans <angiebevans@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 7:08 PM  
**To:** Council, City; Fine, Adrian; Cormack, Alison; DuBois, Tom; Filseth, Eric (Internal); Kou, Lydia  
**Subject:** Evictions Moratorium on April 6th Agenda

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Dear Mayor Fine and City Council Members,

I'm writing to applaud you for your recent action. Palo Alto City Council's leadership in passing this Evictions Moratorium without delay demonstrates the value we place on renters in our community. It's also encouraging that the Council is considering bringing our City ordinance into alignment with the County ordinance. Allowing for no-fault evictions is bad for the entire community and I'm glad you're working to remove that loophole. Renters and homeowners alike should be able to shelter-in-place properly, without the fear of a sudden move or homelessness. One piece that I'd encourage you to consider amending is the requirement for demonstration of loss of income. Requiring additional paperwork or proof at a time of crisis sets landlords and renters up to be in an adversarial negotiation. A true crisis driven eviction moratorium would make the space for renters and landlords to focus on getting and staying healthy - not proving that there is need. As policymakers, it's important to ask whether this policy will help or harm our community. I believe there is no added benefit to requiring this demonstration of loss. As always, I'm happy to talk more about my thoughts on this topic.

Best,  
Angie Evans  
Crescent Park Neighbor, Momx2, Community Organizer, Social Worker, etc.



## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** slevy@ccsce.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 12:45 PM  
**To:** Council, City  
**Cc:** Shikada, Ed; Nose, Kiely; Guagliardo, Steven; Flaherty, Michelle  
**Subject:** COVID-19 memo from the city manager

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Dear Mayor Fine and council members,

I support a flexible approach to the city budget for Fiscal 20 and 21. The magnitude and duration of the economic slowdown will depend on the magnitude and duration of the virus spread and our progress in treating and containing the virus. We will need to revise our budget as we go forward. I will pass along to the staff all of the economic forecasts I receive regularly from other organizations.

The restart of the economy will go in phases--not all at once. The expiration of shelter in place will go in phases and businesses will have to practice some physical distancing in the early days, for example, having only a % of restaurant capacity open or pacing how many can come to a store. As a result the city will experience revenue shortfalls long after economic activity begins to restart.

The major responses for helping residents and businesses must come from the federal government. While we all want to help those who are being injured in the economic downturn, state and local governments themselves are victims in the sense of negative impacts on their budgets.

I think this is a time for a wake up call and serious reflection about the requirements for a healthy local economy.

Well before the virus and postponement of the business tax, Palo Alto was seeing large vacancies and closures or move outs of employees. An office where i work has been vacant for nine months as has one of the commercial condos where I live and an increasing number of spaces downtown where I live and work and walk daily.

I see and read about businesses who announced they are closing permanently.

The Stanford folks can speak to the impacts in the research park and shopping center.

We are no longer the place where everyone has to be. Neighboring cities are offering newer facilities, lower rents and a more welcoming attitude toward growing the customer base needed for our struggling small businesses. It does not matter what the lease rate used to be if stores and offices are vacant and businesses are closing or leaving the city.

Moreover, we have adopted policies that limit the number of customers by limiting commercial and residential growth, even though we know that existing residents are spending online as our stores close.

So to me the most important response will be to help residents understand how our competitive position has changed, fund an economic development office and once again become a community that welcomes new residents and businesses to rebuild our customer and revenue base.

If anything the pandemic has taught us that to ignore evidence and not plan for the future is not a strategy for success.

I hope all are safe and well and commend council and the city staff for a proactive response to the COVID-19 spread and threat.

Stephen Levy

Palo Alto

## Baumb, Nelly

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**From:** Angie Evans <angiebevans@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2020 3:06 PM  
**To:** Council, City; Fine, Adrian; Cormack, Alison; DuBois, Tom; Filseth, Eric (Internal); Kou, Lydia; Kniss, Liz (internal)  
**Subject:** Re: Evictions Moratorium on April 6th Agenda

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Hi, I just wanted to provide a minor update, which you may or may not be aware of and does remove a layer of complication to your discussion tonight. The Judicial Council of California just adopted an emergency court rule that effectively stops all new eviction cases, other than those necessary to protect public health and safety, for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. The rule is applicable to all courts and to all eviction cases, whether they are based on a tenant's missed rent payment or another reason. This new court rule will apply until 90 days after the Governor lifts the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, or until it is amended or repealed by the Judicial Council.

On Thu, Apr 2, 2020 at 7:07 PM Angie Evans <[angiebevans@gmail.com](mailto:angiebevans@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Mayor Fine and City Council Members,

I'm writing to applaud you for your recent action. Palo Alto City Council's leadership in passing this Evictions Moratorium without delay demonstrates the value we place on renters in our community. It's also encouraging that the Council is considering bringing our City ordinance into alignment with the County ordinance. Allowing for no-fault evictions is bad for the entire community and I'm glad you're working to remove that loophole. Renters and homeowners alike should be able to shelter-in-place properly, without the fear of a sudden move or homelessness. One piece that I'd encourage you to consider amending is the requirement for demonstration of loss of income. Requiring additional paperwork or proof at a time of crisis sets landlords and renters up to be in an adversarial negotiation. A true crisis driven eviction moratorium would make the space for renters and landlords to focus on getting and staying healthy - not proving that there is need. As policymakers, it's important to ask whether this policy will help or harm our community. I believe there is no added benefit to requiring this demonstration of loss. As always, I'm happy to talk more about my thoughts on this topic.

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