



March 16, 2020

Alameda County Sheriff's Office
2425 E 12th Street
Oakland, CA 94601

We are writing on behalf of our local tenants' rights organizations, the tenants we represent, and the residents of Alameda County. It has come to our attention that the Alameda County Sheriff's Office still intends to execute writs of possession and carry out evictions tomorrow morning, Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 6:00AM.

In light of the continued public health crisis associated with the increasingly rapid spread of COVID-19, **we request that the Alameda County Sheriff's Office stay all evictions effective immediately to protect the health and safety of Alameda County residents for a period of at least 60 days.**

1. Enforcing evictions tomorrow contradicts CDC guidelines and Gavin Newsom's mandates and will put all of Alameda County at greater risk of exposure to, contraction of, and death from COVID-19.

This pandemic is happening in the midst of an ongoing affordable housing crisis that already has dire consequences for low-income and vulnerable populations in the East Bay. And that affordable housing crisis is now compounded tenfold by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not just a tenants' rights issue, this is a public health emergency.

It is undisputed that the homeless population is significantly more vulnerable to COVID-19 than the general population. Enforcing evictions tomorrow and in the weeks to follow will increase the homeless population in the East Bay, and therefore, the spread of COVID-19 and COVID-19 related deaths.

In his press release on March 15, 2020, Gavin Newsom specifically identified the homeless population as a vulnerable population during this COVID-19 pandemic. He also required that anyone over 65 years old and anyone with a chronic illness remain isolated in their homes and that other less vulnerable people must practice social distancing when in public, even hospital visits are limited to end of life visitation only. People cannot practice home isolation if they do not have a home. People cannot practice social distancing while huddled together in encampments. People cannot practice social distancing when forced to crowd into the homes of friends or family members should they be fortunate enough to have them. The evidence is staggering that if we do not



flatten the curve and reduce the spread through social distancing and home isolation, our hospitals will be overrun, and people will die.

2. The Alameda County Sheriff's Office has the power to call off these scheduled evictions immediately.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office has discretion on when it enforces evictions. Other law enforcement offices have already used their discretion to stay evictions during this crisis. You have the power to flatten the curve. You have made the call not to enforce evictions on Christmas or Thanksgiving. You have made the call to enforce evictions on a different dates than the dates for which they were noticed. You have made the call to stay enforcement at the request of Adult Protective Services. If the decision to stay execution of a writ for possession can be made to honor a holiday or to mitigate a scheduling conflict within the Sheriff's Office or to prevent harm to an elderly individual, surely, you can see that now, during a public health crisis and pandemic, is the time to exercise that discretion. These are extraordinary circumstances, and failure to stay enforcement of evictions now is a threat to the public safety of all Alameda County residents.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Signed,

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