

From: [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk; -- City Clerk; [Landlord Tenant Protections](#)
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 1:12:58 PM

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Dear Honorable Mayor McDonnell and Council members,

I strongly urge the City Council to listen to its community and reject the newly drafted just-cause eviction law. It is a burdensome ordinance that will unjustifiably punish housing providers in your community who have dedicated themselves to ethically providing families with an essential service. My parents have worked tirelessly over the years to keep their rents below market and have acted in every way to help those who have needed it over the years. Recently, it has become impossible for my parents to pay their bills because their rental prices are too low, and when it is important for them to raise rents reasonably after no increases for the past 10 years, they cannot do so to pay the bills that maintain the property, specifically because of the stringent rules associated with any repairs by the city and its associated costs.

The egregious costs in this ordinance --placed squarely on the shoulders of housing providers -- will push much-needed housing off the already limited rental housing market.

The Petaluma City Council does not need to add regulations and layers of bureaucracy to already robust protections afforded by renters through California state law. This ordinance will only perpetuate further confusion and bring harm to all members of the community. This law prevents landlords from treating tenants like the individuals they are, in varying circumstances and for varying reasons. It is sad that my parents can no longer give a break to a struggling tenant even to pay rent a few days later, because it goes against the Fair Housing laws and some tenants will take advantage of this information and go after landlords who have been deemed the "bad guys" by laws just like this and will insist on the same "break" even when they don't need it. This is a complex equation that cannot be solved or improved by a blanket law, with its underlying negative assumption that all landlords are bad.

It is time to build more housing, not create more laws and bureaucracy.

Sincerely,
Amy Schwappach
Martha Dougherty
Jim Dougherty