



TENANT AND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

November 23, 2020

ATTN: East Bay Rental Housing Association Directors and Officers

The Tenant and Neighborhood Councils (TANC) is a member-run, Bay Area-wide tenant union representing hundreds of tenants in the East Bay who have organized councils or associations around individual property owners in order to collectively fight for affordable, safe housing.

Many of our members have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving them unable to pay rent. They've lost their jobs, they've lost loved ones, and now they're afraid of losing their homes. Yet their landlords refuse to provide humane concessions such as cancelling back rent and reducing rent moving forward in the midst of a devastating recession. These concessions would uphold basic human rights during rampant unemployment and privation.

Instead, many landlords are pursuing evictions in violation of local and state moratoriums, threatening to exacerbate our homelessness crisis despite growing rental unit vacancies.

We demand that the East Bay Rental Housing Association use its influence over local landlords, property managers and landlord attorneys to instruct its members to do the following:

- Negotiate in good faith with tenant councils to cancel rent debt and reduce current rent
- Cease exploiting confusion about laws such as AB-3088 to elicit self-eviction
- List the growing number of empty units at rates truly affordable to working-class tenants

In addition, we demand the East Bay Rental Housing Association itself take the following steps:

- Replace COVID 19-related rent debt forms with rent cancellation forms
- Update all forms to include accurate tenant rights information vetted by tenant advocates
- Cease actively campaigning against pro-tenant legislation and policies including the state and local eviction moratoria implemented during this crushing pandemic

We trust you to uphold the commitments in your own code of ethics to comply with rental housing laws, respond to tenants' requests and honor every tenants' right to safe housing.

Without meaningful action by December 1, 2020, TANC will mobilize its membership against the East Bay Rental Housing Association's role in worsening unaffordability and homelessness in the Bay Area.

Sincerely,
Tenant and Neighborhood Councils (TANC)