

**CORRESPONDENCE  
FROM JUNE 1, 2020  
CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**Martinez, Ruben**

---

**Subject:** FW: Agenda Item #22 Rental Assistance Program

**From:** Laura Olhasso <Laura@pfar.org>

**Date:** June 1, 2020 at 11:52:06 AM PDT

**To:** "Tornek, Terry" <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>, "Kennedy, John" <JohnJKennedy@cityofpasadena.net>, "Hampton, Tyron" <THampton@cityofpasadena.net>, "McAustin, Margaret" <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>, "Madison, Steve" <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>, "Masuda, Gene" <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>, "Wilson, Andy" <awilson@cityofpasadena.net>, "Gordo, Victor" <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>

**Cc:** "Jomsky, Mark" <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>

**Subject:** Agenda Item #22 Rental Assistance Program

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

The Pasadena-Foothills Association of REALTORS supports with great enthusiasm your approval of a Rental Assistance Program. (Agenda Item #22). While we understand it is unlikely that the funds available will cover all tenants with past due rents, it will certainly help those most in need. What great peace of mind you are offering to those tenants -- and to the landlords who house them. We wholeheartedly urge your approval!

Sincerely,

Laura Olhasso

Government Affairs Director

Pasadena-Foothills Association of Realtors

06/01/2020  
Item 22

## Martinez, Ruben

---

**From:** Allison Henry <beowulfscot@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2020 12:17 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Cc:** Tornek, Terry; McAustin, Margaret; Hampton, Tyron; Kennedy, John; Wilson, Andy; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Letter Re Item 22 June 1, 2020 Council Meeting

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

June 1, 2020

Dear Pasadena Mayor and City Council;

My name is Allison Henry, and I am a resident of district 3 and am a member of the Pasadena Tenants Union. I write regarding item #22, the rental relief assistance using CARES act and CBDG monies. While I am glad that Pasadena has received \$1,000,000 to distribute to Pasadena tenants in need, the process drawn up in the Housing Department's report is extremely cumbersome.

My main concerns are:

--the overall process drawn up in the Housing Department's report is labor intensive for the city's Housing Department, tenants, and even landlords. Were any local groups, including Pasadena Tenant's Union, asked or consulted for best practices or profiles of need? This report tells me there was no such outreach, and quite frankly there is no excuse for that.

--Pasadena's moratorium allows tenants 30 days to notify their landlord of inability to pay. The current process requires that the notice should have been given to landlords by application time.

--Many long-term tenants are no longer on multi-month lease agreements, but rather on month-to-month leases. What is the process for these tenants? What type of agreements will be recognized?

--The total payments, should tenants be able to avail of each amount, for 3 months is \$4500. Where in this city is anyone living with a rent of \$1500/month?

--How is the city going to notify residents of this program?

--The application window is tight. Given all the documentation needed, there seems to be misalignment in the time allotted and the task required.

--The scoring system, while drawn up with good intent, will leave thousands of Pasadena tenants out of consideration. What is the plan for those residents?

--The spent over \$400,000 on a no-bid contract for a police helicopter camera recently. Will the city commit that much or more of city money to the Rental Assistance Fund?

--what commitments will council make to residents of the city to address overall affordability and sustainability of housing for tenants currently struggling to stay in the city?

**06/01/2020**  
**Item 22**

As representatives of a tenant majority city, you need to do more. You cannot merely represent your own landlord class. We have vacant units in the city. We have units in the city that are for short-term, vacation rentals that could be part of permanent housing stock. We should be looking at policies to reduce current rents, bring in more aggressive rent control than the state, and push for vacancy de-control (repeal of Costa Hawkins) to keep tenancies in Pasadena stable beyond the pandemic and economic fallout. Together, we can do more.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,  
Allison Henry