

**PUBLIC COMMENT  
FROM JUNE 1, 2020  
CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2020 2:48 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City\_Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 19, 21D, 22

## **Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 19, 21D, 22**

<b>Name:</b> Leigh	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Address:</b>
Ann Greenfield			Pasadena, CA

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### **Comments:**

19 - I am in support of budget allocations that prioritize schools, social services, and economic relief for our most underserved communities.

21 D - I am in support of continuing the weekend lunch program, and continuing/expanding any such programs providing needed resources for our community.

22 - I am in support of the Rental Assistance Program, and allocating any funds possible to help low-income residents whose ability to pay rent has been impacted by COVID-19.

As a citizen of Pasadena, I want to see our community take steps forward in providing affordable housing, services for the homeless, and developing a more community-focused and accountable police force.

Thank you all.

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**Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes**

**06/01/2020  
Item 22**

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2020 12:48 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City\_Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 22

## Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 22

**Name:** Roger Quintanilla      **Email:**      **Phone:**      **Address:** Pasadena, CA

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### Comments:

The City of Pasadena must pass the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. We have the duty as a society and city to provide a safety net for our most vulnerable citizens and this is exactly what the assistance program would accomplish. You all must continue setting the example of what government looks like when it works for the people, especially when the loudest voices in neighboring cities are fighting to make this pandemic even more hurtful for those are on the verge of becoming homeless or already on the street. Be better than those voices, do what's right for the people, and protect our most vulnerable families.

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**Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes**

06/01/2020  
Item 22

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2020 12:59 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City\_Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item #22

## Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item #22

**Name:** Matthew Sorrenti  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
**Phone:** [REDACTED]  
**Address:** [REDACTED] Ave, [REDACTED], Pasadena, CA [REDACTED]

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### Comments:

The Pasadena City Council has once again demonstrated that landlords come first. This proposal for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program will benefit very few tenants while bailing out landlords and providing a fig leaf for the city's displacement and gentrification crisis. The council rightly acknowledges that a wave of evictions against tenants who cannot afford to pay back-rent after the COVID-19 emergency is on the horizon. However, their pitiful solution offers no shelter in the storm. The certification process, means testing, points system, narrow timeframe, and numerous exceptions will mean only a handful of tenants will qualify, and all that money will flow directly to the landlord's pockets. There's nothing to protect renters if their landlord chooses not to provide necessary documents within the ten day window if they would rather evict a low-income tenant.

If the city council is serious about preventing displacement and keeping people in their homes, then the solution is simple; back-rent forgiveness for all tenants affected by COVID-19. Instead of bailing out landlords, do what other cities have done and pass a Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act for the City of Pasadena and use the CARE funds to help tenants buy their buildings.

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**Consent given to read my comments out loud:** Yes

06/01/2020  
Item 22

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2020 3:10 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City\_Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 22

## **Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 22**

**Name:** Ryan Bell      **Email:**      **Phone:**      **Address:** Pasadena, CA

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### **Comments:**

I'm grateful to the Housing Department staff for exploring ways that we can support tenants in need and I'm also happy that we have these additional dollars coming into our city in this time of crisis. However the process is fatally flawed if the goal is to ensure that tenants remain in their housing. The proposal reflects a landlord first approach that dominates this discourse.

Here's a better idea: do what the Pasadena Tenants Union has been demanding. Forgive back rents for tenants who have a COVID-19 reason for their inability to pay. Then put landlords through this ridiculous gauntlet of means testing to see if they qualify for assistance. Better still, pass a Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) for the City of Pasadena. For landlords who wish to sell their property, tenants will have the opportunity to form a tenants association to secure funds and purchase the building. Then use the CARES Act funds and other state and county resources to provide financial support for tenants associations who wish to purchase their building. Then you'll have long term housing security for Pasadenans.

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**Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes**

06/01/2020  
Item 22

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2020 3:13 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City\_Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 22 Rental Assistance

## **Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 22 Rental Assistance**

**Name:** Anthony Manousos      **Email:**      **Phone:**      **Address:** Ave, Pasadena, CA

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### **Comments:**

I want to commend the City Council for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program that will provide grants up to \$4500 to help those who are income-qualified to stay in their apartments. This is an excellent way to prevent homelessness. It is much harder and more expensive to re-house someone experiencing homelessness than it is to prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place. As Matthew Desmond demonstrates in his award-winning book "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City," eviction causes low-income people to spiral down into deeper and more intractable poverty from which it is all but impossible to emerge. According to Desmond, women of color are often those most impacted by eviction. I urge you to approve this new ordinance which is a step in the right direction. During this Covid 19 crisis, the City needs to do all it can to help low-income residents to stay housed.

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**Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes**

06/01/2020  
Item 22

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2020 3:32 PM  
**To:** Public Comment; City\_Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 22

## Public Comment for Meeting on June 1, 2020 about Agenda Item 22

**Name:** Allison Henry  
**Email:**  
**Phone:**  
**Address:** Pasadena, CA

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### Comments:

Dear Pasadena Mayor and City Council;

My name is Allison Henry, I live in District 3. I write regarding item #22, rental relief. While I am glad that Pasadena has received \$1,000,000 to distribute to Pasadena tenants in need, the process drawn up in the staff report is extremely cumbersome.

Some concerns:

--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.

--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 city 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?

Thank you for reading my comments.