



City of Tacoma

Mayor Victoria Woodards

April 3, 2020

Honorable Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

First and foremost, the City of Tacoma would like to thank you for your leadership in these unprecedented times, the actions that you are taking to limit the harm of the COVID-19 outbreak, and your work to engage in a non-partisan fashion with the federal government and advocate for the resources our State needs.

As the economic impacts of COVID-19 began being felt by Washingtonians, you took swift action regarding evictions and expressed the desire that no one should be put out of their home as a result of this epidemic. We could not concur with you more as the health of our community relies on stable housing for all our residents. When we consider the recovery ahead, the health and wellbeing of our existing businesses must also be a consideration.

Because the City does not want to take action potentially in conflict with state law, we respectfully request that you take the following steps to protect the immediate health and long-term vitality of Washington State:

- Work with the four corners of the State Legislature to extend the existing statewide moratorium on evictions of residential tenants;
- Expand these same protections to commercial tenants;
- Prohibit fees from being levied in circumstances where rent has not been paid due to the impacts of COVID-19; and
- Acknowledging that the suspension of evictions and financial penalties for non-payment of rent has immediate and direct impacts on property owners, immediately build on the work you've done with the Washington State Department of Financial Institution's guidance issued

on March 31, 2020 and suspend foreclosures on residential and commercial properties during this time.

There is a long road ahead of us, one that has already touched the lives of every person in this great State. With your leadership and by coming together to do all we can to provide stability to those most deeply impacted, we know that Washington State will be poised for the best possible outcomes and a swift recovery.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or if we can be of service to you during the COVID-19 response.

Sincerely,

INSERT ALL COUNCIL SIGNATURE BLOCKS IF APPROVED