



## PROCLAMATION CALLING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL

In accordance with the authority in me vested, I do hereby call the Berkeley City Council in special session as follows:

**Wednesday, August 3, 2022  
9:00 AM**

JESSE ARREGUIN, MAYOR

Councilmembers:

DISTRICT 1 – RASHI KESARWANI  
DISTRICT 2 – TERRY TAPLIN  
DISTRICT 3 – BEN BARTLETT  
DISTRICT 4 – KATE HARRISON

DISTRICT 5 – SOPHIE HAHN  
DISTRICT 6 – SUSAN WENGRAF  
DISTRICT 7 – RIGEL ROBINSON  
DISTRICT 8 – LORI DROSTE

### **PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE**

*Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and the state declared emergency, this meeting of the City Council will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. The COVID-19 state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and presents imminent risks to the health of attendees. Therefore, no physical meeting location will be available.*

*Live captioned broadcasts of Council Meetings are available on Cable B-TV (Channel 33) and via internet accessible video stream at [http://berkeley.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\\_id=1244](http://berkeley.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=1244).*

*To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Please use this URL <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81806496183>. If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon by rolling over the bottom of the screen.*

*To join by phone: Dial 1-669-900-9128 or 1-877-853-5257 (Toll Free) and enter Meeting ID: 818 0649 6183. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press \*9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.*

*Please be mindful that the teleconference will be recorded as any Council meeting is recorded, and all other rules of procedure and decorum will apply for Council meetings conducted by teleconference or videoconference.*

*To submit a written communication for the City Council's consideration and inclusion in the public record, email [council@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:council@cityofberkeley.info).*

*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900. The City Council may take action related to any subject listed on the Agenda. Meetings will adjourn at 11:00 p.m. - any items outstanding at that time will be carried over to a date/time to be specified.*

## Preliminary Matters

### Roll Call:

## Consent Calendar

*The Council will first determine whether to move items on the agenda for “Action” or “Information” to the “Consent Calendar”, or move “Consent Calendar” items to “Action.” Three members of the City Council must agree to pull an item from the Consent Calendar for it to move to Action. Items that remain on the “Consent Calendar” are voted on in one motion as a group. “Information” items are not discussed or acted upon at the Council meeting unless they are moved to “Action” or “Consent”.*

*No additional items can be moved onto the Consent Calendar once public comment has commenced. At any time during, or immediately after, public comment on Information and Consent items, any Councilmember may move any Information or Consent item to “Action.” Following this, the Council will vote on the items remaining on the Consent Calendar in one motion.*

*For items moved to the Action Calendar from the Consent Calendar or Information Calendar, persons who spoke on the item during the Consent Calendar public comment period may speak again at the time the matter is taken up during the Action Calendar.*

**Public Comment on Consent Calendar and Information Items Only:** *The Council will take public comment on any items that are either on the amended Consent Calendar or the Information Calendar. Speakers will be entitled to two minutes each to speak in opposition to or support of Consent Calendar and Information Items. A speaker may only speak once during the period for public comment on Consent Calendar and Information items.*

*Additional information regarding public comment by City of Berkeley employees and interns: Employees and interns of the City of Berkeley, although not required, are encouraged to identify themselves as such, the department in which they work and state whether they are speaking as an individual or in their official capacity when addressing the Council in open session or workshops.*

## Consent Calendar

- 1. Additional Allocation of Measure P Funding to “Step Up Housing” Project From: Councilmember Bartlett (Author), Councilmember Wengraf (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Kesarwani (Co-Sponsor)**  
**Recommendation:** Adopt a Resolution allocating an additional \$114,660 per year for 10 years, from Measure P transfer tax receipts to support the increased costs for the lease and operation of a new permanent supportive housing project for the unhoused at the Step-Up Housing Project at 1367 University Avenue. In addition, refer to the next meeting of the Budget and Finance Policy Committee to confirm the availability of requested funding.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Ben Bartlett, Councilmember, District 3, (510) 981-7130

## Action Calendar

*The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. For items moved to the Action Calendar from the Consent Calendar or Information Calendar, persons who spoke on the item during the Consent Calendar public comment period may speak again at the time the matter is taken up during the Action Calendar.*

## Action Calendar

The Presiding Officer will request that persons wishing to speak use the "raise hand" function to determine the number of persons interested in speaking at that time. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Presiding Officer may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker. Speakers are permitted to yield their time to one other speaker, however no one speaker shall have more than four minutes. The Presiding Officer may, with the consent of persons representing both sides of an issue, allocate a block of time to each side to present their issue.

Action items may be reordered at the discretion of the Chair with the consent of Council.

## Action Calendar

- 2. Placing a General Obligation Bond Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot for Affordable Housing, Climate Change Resiliency, Wildfire Protection, and Other Public Infrastructure Improvements** *(Continued from July 26, 2022) (Item contains revised material)*  
**From: City Manager**  
**Recommendation:**

  1. Adopt a Resolution determining public interest and necessity for issuing a general obligation bond in the amount of either \$600 million or \$650 million for affordable housing, climate change resiliency, wildfire protection, and other public infrastructure improvements, submitting to the Berkeley electorate on the November 8, 2022 ballot a measure to authorize a general obligation bond in that amount, and finding that the proposed measure is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act.
  2. Designate, by motion, specific members of the Council to file ballot measure arguments on this measure as provided for in Elections Code Section 9282.

**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900
  
- 3. Placing a General Tax Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot to Tax Vacant Residential Units** *(Continued from July 26, 2022) (Item contains revised material)*  
**From: City Manager**  
**Recommendation:**

  1. Adopt a Resolution submitting a ballot measure to tax vacant residential units to a vote of the electors at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election.
  2. Designate, by motion, specific members of the Council to file ballot measure arguments on this measure as provided for in Elections Code Section 9282.

**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900

## Action Calendar

4. **Placing a Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot Amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance (B.M.C. 13.76)** *(Item contains revised material)*  
**From: 4 x 4 Joint Committee on Housing City Council/Rent Board**  
**Recommendation:**
1. Adopt a Resolution placing the proposed amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance on the ballot of the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election.
  2. Designate, by motion, specific members of the Council to file ballot measure arguments on this measure as provided for in Elections Code Section 9282.
- Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Matt Brown, Rent Stabilization Board, (510) 981-7368

## Adjournment

I hereby request that the City Clerk of the City of Berkeley cause personal notice to be given to each member of the Berkeley City Council on the time and place of said meeting, forthwith.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Berkeley to be affixed on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2022.



Jesse Arreguin, Mayor

Public Notice – this Proclamation serves as the official agenda for this meeting.

ATTEST:



Date: August 1, 2022  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk

**NOTICE CONCERNING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS:** *If you object to a decision by the City Council to approve or deny a use permit or variance for a project the following requirements and restrictions apply:*

- 1) *No lawsuit challenging a City decision to deny (Code Civ. Proc. §1094.6(b)) or approve (Gov. Code 65009(c)(5)) a use permit or variance may be filed more than 90 days after the date the Notice of Decision of the action of the City Council is mailed. Any lawsuit not filed within that 90-day period will be barred.*
- 2) *In any lawsuit that may be filed against a City Council decision to approve or deny a use permit or variance, the issues and evidence will be limited to those raised by you or someone else, orally or in writing, at a public hearing or prior to the close of the last public hearing on the project.*

Archived indexed video streams are available at:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/city-council/city-council-agendas>.

Channel 33 rebroadcasts the following Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Communications to the City Council are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to the City Council, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service to the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the City Clerk Department for further information.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the public counter at the City Clerk Department located on the first floor of City Hall located at 2180 Milvia Street as well as posted on the City's website at <https://berkeleyca.gov/>.

Agendas and agenda reports may be accessed via the Internet at:  
<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/city-council/city-council-agendas>  
and may be read at reference desks at the following locations:

City Clerk Department - 2180 Milvia Street, First Floor  
Tel: 510-981-6900, TDD: 510-981-6903, Fax: 510-981-6901  
Email: [clerk@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:clerk@cityofberkeley.info)

Libraries: Main – 2090 Kittredge Street,  
Claremont Branch – 2940 Benvenue, West Branch – 1125 University,  
North Branch – 1170 The Alameda, South Branch – 1901 Russell

#### COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at (510) 981-6418 (V) or (510) 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.



Captioning services are provided at the meeting, on B-TV, and on the Internet.

## Communications

*Council rules limit action on Communications to referral to the City Manager and/or Boards and Commissions for investigation and/or recommendations. All communications submitted to Council are public record. Copies of individual communications are available for viewing at the City Clerk Department and through [Records Online](#).*

### **3. Placing a General Tax Measure on the November 8, 200 Ballot to Tax Vacant Residential Units**

1. Barbara Gilbert
2. Lynnda Ohama
3. Harvey Sharp
4. Jim Furuichi
5. Adriel Hampton
6. Carole Marasovic

### **4.Placing a Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot Amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance (B.M.C. 13.76)**

7. Elaine Bloom
8. Michael O’Heaney



CONSENT CALENDAR

August 3, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett (Author), Councilmember Susan Wengraf and  
 Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (Co-Sponsors)  
 Subject: Additional Allocation of Measure P Funding to “Step Up Housing” Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution allocating an additional \$114,660 per year for 10 years, from Measure P transfer tax receipts to support the increased costs for the lease and operation of a new permanent supportive housing project for the unhoused at the Step-Up Housing Project at 1367 University Avenue. In addition, refer to the next meeting of the Budget and Finance Policy Committee to confirm the availability of requested funding.

BACKGROUND

California has the highest real world poverty rate of any state, 17.2% over the previous three years and much higher than the national rate.<sup>1</sup> A major contributing factor to the state’s high poverty indices is that many California residents spend much of their income on housing due to high construction costs.<sup>2</sup> Throughout the state, many affordable housing development projects are stalled, burdened, and have incurred higher than the median costs for development.

For example, in Alameda, CA, Everett Commons, which is a low-income development that provides housing for only 20 families, costs \$947,000 per unit.<sup>3</sup> The notoriously high price of land and the rising cost of construction materials are contributing factors. On the other hand, the Step-Up Housing Initiative uses an efficient and cost-effective modular construction model that provides 39 individuals with not only stable housing, but a safe and supportive environment where they can access critical employment, health, substance abuse, and community resources and services. Berkeley can help address the shortage of homes and effectively alleviate the City’s homelessness crisis through this innovative and practical project.

CURRENT SITUATION

On October 13, 2020 the Council unanimously passed Resolution # 69,586-N.S. to authorize use of \$900,000 a year to fund a new 39-unit Step Up Supportive Housing project at 1367 University Ave. (See attachment.) BOSS is the operator of the facility, and Panoramic Interests/Swinerton Builders would construct and furnish it.

Since then, dramatic increases in construction prices and materials, supply chain complications and dramatic increases in interest fees have caused the project construction costs to rise more than 50%. At current rents of \$1,400 per unit per month, the project is infeasible and cannot be financed. If, however, rents can be raised to \$1,645 per month, the project can proceed. The higher rents would justify a larger construction loan to finance the additional costs.

To cover these increased rents, additional Measure P funds of \$114,660 per year are needed, beyond the \$900,000 already allocated. This is an increase of 12.7%.

A RECAP OF THE PROJECT -

The project will include 39 fully furnished studio apartments, private bathrooms for each studio, a 400-square-foot community room, a community kitchen, two offices for support staff and services, permanent on-site property management, and 24/7 security. The building will be constructed with modular units built around an approximately 615-square foot private central courtyard.

BOSS will provide services for Step-Up Supportive Housing including connecting residents to mental health resources, substance abuse recovery services, employment, education, and legal services and will accompany them to service providers when appropriate. The program will ensure participants obtain health insurance coverage and connect them to primary care providers. Opportunities for socialization and peer support will be provided through the organization of on-site support groups, learning workshops, social activities, community meals, and service visits by outside providers. BOSS will also manage an on-site food pantry in collaboration with Alameda County Community Food Bank. These services will help residents maintain stable housing, improve mental and physical health, and decrease social isolation. On-site service hours will be provided Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm, but the case manager or designated staff will be on-call as needed at all times.

The program will be staffed by several employees, including a program manager, housing manager, property manager, cook, maintenance worker, and overnight monitor.

#### REVIEW OF EXISTING POLICIES AND PLANS

Berkeley voters overwhelmingly passed Measure P in November 2018 with 72% of the vote. The Measure raised the transfer tax on property sales over \$1.5 million from 1.5% to 2%, which is expected to generate approximately \$6-8 million annually. These funds were intended to be allocated towards various homeless services, including permanent housing, supportive services, and navigation centers.

Measure P also created an independent commission, the Homeless Services Panel of Experts, to provide recommendations on funding allocations to the City Council. In December 2019, the Homeless Services Panel of Experts published its first set of recommendations for initial investments from the General Fund to address homelessness in Berkeley. The Panel's recommendations prioritized certain categories of activities and set forth a percentage of funding for each category. Permanent housing was listed as the top priority, with 30% of the funds recommended to be allocated towards such projects. The remainder was recommended to be allocated towards shelter and temporary accommodations, immediate street conditions and hygiene, supportive services, flexible housing subsidies, and infrastructure. The City Council approved on June 30, 2020, Measure P allocations for FY 2020-21 that included \$2.5 million for permanent housing subsidy.

In 2017, the City Council also referred staff to create a 1000 Person Plan, which seeks to end homelessness for 1000 people in Berkeley. In 2019, City staff responded to this referral and concluded that the Council needed to provide up-front investments in targeted homelessness prevention, light-touching housing problem-solving, rapid rehousing, and permanent subsidies. This proposal to lease and operate the StepUp Housing initiative at 1367 University would help move forward the 1000 Person Plan and accomplish the Homeless Services Panel's top priority of providing stable and permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.



In addition, this project also fulfills the goals of the original StepUp Housing initiative, which passed unanimously on February 14, 2017.

#### CONSULTATION/OUTREACH OVERVIEW

Councilmember Bartlett's office collaborated with BOSS and Panoramic Interests to ensure the long-term success of this new permanent supportive housing project, the StepUp Housing initiative. By bringing together BOSS's expertise in the field of supportive services and Panoramic's efficient modular construction model, this project can be operational and begin providing stable housing to 39 individuals within twelve months of receiving this funding commitment, resulting in dramatic savings in costs and delivery time.

BOSS was founded in Berkeley in 1971 to serve severe and persistent mentally ill homeless individuals and their families, and has since expanded to serve over 3,000 families and individuals per year across Alameda County, including persons experiencing homelessness, mental illness, former incarceration/justice system involvement, domestic or community violence, unemployment, and other crises. BOSS has 49 years of experience serving the target population, and 45 years of experience operating emergency, transitional, and permanent housing programs. Panoramic Interests has been building high density infill development projects in the Bay Area since 1990. Its work in downtown Berkeley and San Francisco includes 15 projects, adding more than 1,000 new units of housing, and 100,000 square feet of commercial space. From 1998-2004, Panoramic built seven new mixed-use apartment buildings in downtown Berkeley. During this time, Panoramic housed more than 80 Section 8 tenants, making it the largest private provider of Section 8 housing in the city.

This collaborative effort between the city, the service provider, and the developer can serve as a regional model for future permanent supportive housing projects in Berkeley and throughout the Bay Area.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City committed to funding a Step-Up Supportive Housing facility in October of 2020. The project was expected to be completed sometime in 2021-2022 but saw escalating prices, supply chain complications and rising interest rates as the final budgets were established.

The additional project costs rose by more than 50% making the project infeasible, at the original rents of \$1,400 per unit per month. (See attached documents.)

The City's additional funding commitment will enable the project to be completed as planned. It will help the homelessness crisis by allowing for the long-term and stable housing of 39 individuals experiencing homelessness as well as the provision of on-site services to help those individuals retain housing, improve their mental and physical health, connect with employment and education opportunities, and decrease social isolation. In addition, this project will serve as a regional model for other jurisdictions to consider when dealing with the homelessness crisis in their cities.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS

The new permanent supportive housing project, known as the Step-Up Housing at 1367 University

is requesting an additional \$114,660 per year for 10 years to cover an increase in the rental rate from \$1,400 per unit per month to \$1,645 per unit per month. The \$114,660 allocation represents a 12.74% increase from the original allocation of \$900,000 per year.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The project itself was determined by the Planning Department to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15332 (In-Fill Development Projects) of the CEQA Guidelines.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett

510-981-7130

James Chang

[jchang@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:jchang@cityofberkeley.info)

#### ATTACHMENTS AND MATERIALS

1. Proposed Resolution
2. Letter from Donald Frazier, Exec. Dir. BOSS to Mayor Arreguin, 6-6-22
3. Budget from Swinerton Builders, June 3, 2002 showing cost increases of \$3M+.
4. Past Resolution NO. 69,586-N.S. October 13, 2020
5. Articles: “Soaring material prices, supply chain delays spook owners and developer.” Construction Dive, 4-12-21. “Mortgage rates spike to their highest level in nearly 13 years.” Washington Post, 5-5-22. Step Up Housing Council Item from February 14, 2017:
6. Additional Links
  - a. <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-272.pdf>
  - b. <https://www.sacbee.com/article245815115.html>
  - c. <https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2020-04-09/california-low-income-housing-expensive-apartment-coronavirus>
  - d. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sUgEAKJfpRaNMBAzSFdd9ajV9CA06HOe/view?usp=sharing>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

ALLOCATING AN ADDITIONAL \$114,660 ANNUALLY FOR 10 YEARS OF MEASURE P FUNDS TO LEASE AND OPERATE THE NEW PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT FOR THE HOMELESS AT 1367 UNIVERSITY AVE.

WHEREAS, the City Council passed unanimously the original Step Up Housing Initiative introduced by Councilmember Bartlett, Councilmember Wengraf, Councilmember Kesarwani, and Mayor Arreguin on October 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Measure P was passed by Berkeley voters in November 2018 to raise the transfer tax on roughly the top-third of properties from 1.5% to 2% and allocate those funds towards various homeless services, including permanent housing, supportive services, and navigation centers; and

WHEREAS, Measure P designated the Homeless Services Panel of Experts to advise the Council on expenditures for homeless services; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019 the Homeless Services Panel of Experts published their recommendations for initial allocations under Measure P, including highlighting permanent housing as the City's top priority and recommending 30% of Measure P funds be allocated to permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved on June 30, 2020 Measure P allocations for FY 2020-21 that included \$2.5 million for permanent housing subsidy; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board approved the permanent supportive housing development project at 1367 University on July 9, 2020.

WHEREAS, construction costs, materials costs, and interest rates have increased dramatically in the past 18 months, making the project infeasible at the current rent of \$1,400 per unit per month

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the following be approved for the StepUp Housing at 1367 University Ave:

- A reservation of approximately an additional \$114,660 year in ongoing funds annually for 10 years for the leasing and operation of the proposed project, with funding adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Oakland-Hayward-Berkeley, CA.
- In the event BOSS is unable to perform its function as the service provider, an alternative qualified service provider may operate the project with the review and approval of the City Manager, or her designee.
- Further, the City's commitment is contingent upon the funding of the balance of the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or her designee, is hereby authorized to execute all original or amended documents or agreements to effectuate this action; a signed copy of said documents, agreements, and any amendments will be kept on file in the Office of the City Clerk.



June 6, 2022

Mayor Jesse Arreguin  
2180 Milvia St.  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Permanent supportive housing at 1367 University Avenue, Resolution No. 69,586-N.S.

Dear Mayor Arreguin,

I am writing to request an additional **\$245 per unit, per month**, for our permanent supportive housing project for the homeless at 1367 University Ave.

Since the Resolution was signed in October of 2020, construction costs have skyrocketed. Our development partner has experienced a 65% increase in construction costs since we signed our master lease with them 3 years ago. Additionally, interest rates for construction loans have almost doubled. In order to keep this housing project moving ahead, we are requesting that an additional \$245/unit/month be made available to BOSS as an amendment to Resolution No. 69,586-N.S.

1. \$245/unit/month:  $\$245 \times 39 \text{ units} \times 12 \text{ months} = \$114,660/\text{year}$
2. Exhibit 1: Actual construction costs are on the following page (produced by Swinerton)
  - a. 2019: Construction costs = \$5,929,731
  - b. 2022: Construction costs = \$9,860,277
3. Exhibit 2: Resolution No. 69,586-N.S. is included for your reference
4. Exhibit 3: Recent news clippings about construction costs and interest rates

Please let me know what else you need from us to make this amendment to the Resolution.

Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donald Frazier', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Donald Frazier  
Executive Director

Cc: Colleen Chawla, Alameda County Health Care Service

Exhibit 1

### 2022-05 1367 University Ave - GMP

1367 University Ave, Berkeley CA

Berkeley

Panoramic Development June 03, 2022



Description	Quantity	2019	2022
<small>Division 2 - Mechanical</small>			
<small>2.1.0000 - Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0000 - Air Conditioning</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0100 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0101 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0102 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0103 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0104 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0105 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0106 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0107 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0108 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0109 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0110 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0111 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0112 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0113 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0114 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0115 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0116 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0117 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0118 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0119 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0120 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0121 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0122 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0123 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0124 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0125 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0126 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0127 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0128 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0129 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0130 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0131 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0132 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0133 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0134 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0135 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0136 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0137 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0138 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0139 - Units</small>			
<small>2.1.1.0140 - Units</small>			
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,929,731</b>	<b>\$9,860,277</b>

Exhibit 2

RESOLUTION NO. 69,586-N.S.

ALLOCATING APPROXIMATELY \$900,000 ANNUALLY FOR 10 YEARS AND A ONE-TIME AMOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY \$32,975 OF MEASURE P FUNDS TO LEASE AND OPERATE THE NEW PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT FOR THE HOMELESS AT 1367 UNIVERSITY AVE.

WHEREAS, the City Council passed unanimously the original Step Up Housing Initiative introduced by Councilmember Bartlett on February 14, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Measure P was passed by Berkeley voters in November 2018 to raise the transfer tax on roughly the top-third of properties from 1.5% to 2% and allocate those funds towards various homeless services, including permanent housing, supportive services, and navigation centers; and

WHEREAS, Measure P designated the Homeless Services Panel of Experts to advise the Council on expenditures for homeless services; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019 the Homeless Services Panel of Experts published their recommendations for initial allocations under Measure P, including highlighting permanent housing as the City's top priority and recommending 30% of Measure P funds be allocated to permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved on June 30, 2020 Measure P allocations for FY 2020-21 that included \$2.5 million for permanent housing subsidy; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board approved the permanent supportive housing development project at 1367 University on July 9, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it approves the following for the project at 1367 University Ave:

- A reservation of approximately \$32,975 in Measure P funds for start-up costs associated with the project.
- A reservation of approximately \$900,000 in ongoing funds annually for 10 years for the leasing and operation of the proposed project, with funding adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Oakland-Hayward-Berkeley, CA.
- In the event BOSS is unable to perform its function as the service provider, an alternative qualified service provider may operate the project with the review and approval of the City Manager, or her designee.
- Further, the City's commitment is contingent upon the funding of the balance of the project.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or her designee, is hereby authorized to execute all original or amended documents or agreements to effectuate this action; a signed copy of said documents, agreements, and any amendments will be kept on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on October 13, 2020 by the following vote:

Ayes: Bartlett, Davila, Droste, Hahn, Harrison, Kesarwani, Robinson, Wengraf, and Arreguin.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jesse Arreguin, Mayor

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk

DEEP DIVE

## Soaring material prices, supply chain delays spook owners and developers

The rising cost of many materials and increased sourcing headaches have project owners rethinking their return to normalcy and threaten to derail construction's expected resurgence.

Published April 12, 2021



**Joe Bousquin**  
Senior Reporter



The Washington Post

## Mortgage rates spike to their highest level in nearly 13 years

The 30-year fixed average hasn't been this high since August 2009



By Kathy Dorn

May 5, 2022 at 10:12 a.m. EDT







Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR  
August 3, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Mark Numainville, City Clerk

Subject: Placing a General Obligation Bond Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot for Affordable Housing, Climate Change Resiliency, Wildfire Protection, and Other Public Infrastructure Improvements

RECOMMENDATION

1) Adopt a Resolution determining public interest and necessity for issuing a general obligation bond in the amount of either \$600 million or \$650 million for affordable housing, climate change resiliency, wildfire protection, and other public infrastructure improvements, submitting to the Berkeley electorate on the November 8, 2022 ballot a measure to authorize a general obligation bond in that amount, and finding that the proposed measure is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act.

2) Designate, by motion, specific members of the Council to file ballot measure arguments on this measure as provided for in Elections Code Section 9282.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No direct fiscal impacts related to the recommended action. Election services have seen a steep increase since 2018, with the City's first million-dollar election in 2020. It is uncertain at this time how recent state mandates and the pandemic will affect election costs in an ongoing basis. In addition, the number of measures placed on the ballot, and the length of the measures, are the primary driving factors in the fluctuation of election costs.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On April 27, 2021, City Council approved a referral to the City Manager to "explore various options for a future city bond measure in November 2022 to support the growing need for infrastructure investment, including street repaving, Complete Streets infrastructure that promotes bike and pedestrian safety, restoration of public buildings and facilities, and affordable housing citywide." On June 30, 2021, City Council adopted a budget that included Vision 2050 implementation and exploration of revenue measures for the November 2022 ballot. In partnership with dedicated Vision 2050 volunteers, staff completed meetings with 25+ City Commissions and community

organizations; conducted a scientific survey on infrastructure priorities in October 2021; updated City Council on progress on November 16, 2021; updated and gained City Council's direction at the January 20, 2022 work session; sent an informational brochure to all Berkeley residents inviting them to one of four large area public meetings; held those public meetings on March 30, April 6, April 13, and April 20; conducted this project's second scientific survey of Berkeley voters in late April; reported to City Council on the City's bond capacity on April 26, 2022; drafted a *Vision 2050 Program Plan* and incorporated public comments received between May 2 and May 12, 2022; submitted to City Council a Strategic Asset Management Plan and gained adoption of an Asset Management Policy on May 10, 2022; issued off agenda memos related to this project on October 4, 2021, December 13, 2021, March 28, 2022, and May 3, 2022; provided direction to staff at the May 31, 2022 City Council meeting; and had an in-depth discussion of the revenue measure at the June 21, 2022 City Council meeting and the July 26, 2022 meeting.

At the July 26, 2022 City Council meeting the council directed staff to schedule a special meeting to be held on August 3, and to return with a revised single bond measure in an amount from \$600 million to \$650 million, and provide analysis of the various bond amounts, including average tax rate and various bond terms. Bond measure text was directed to include funding categories of \$300 million for street paving, sidewalks, and complete streets, \$150 million for affordable housing and \$150 million for other public infrastructure, undergrounding on evacuation routes, civic center improvements, infrastructure at the waterfront, the pier, parks, pools, or other public infrastructure. Additionally, council directed that information for a \$650 million bond be included so there could be two options from which to choose. This item includes resolutions for both for council's consideration.

### BACKGROUND

The City Manager is presenting this measure for addition to the November 8, 2022 ballot pursuant to the direction provided by the City Council at the May 31, June 21, and July 26, 2022 City Council meetings.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Implementing Vision 2050 would result in more resilient public infrastructure that creates fewer greenhouse gases, and reduces conflict between our built and natural environment. More affordable housing in Berkeley would reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by employees finding lower cost housing farther away from employment centers and requiring longer commutes.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City Clerk is presenting this action in accordance with the direction given by the City Council at the May 31, June 21, and July 26 2022 meetings.

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

Placing a General Obligation Bond Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot  
for Affordable Housing, Climate Change Resiliency, Wildfire Protection, and  
Other Public Infrastructure Improvements

ACTION CALENDAR  
August 3, 2022

**CONTACT PERSON**

Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900

**Attachments:**

1: Resolution for \$600 Million Bond

Exhibit A: Text of Measure

Exhibit B: Tax Rate

2: Resolution for \$650 Million Bond

Exhibit A: Text of Measure

Exhibit B: Tax Rate

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

DETERMINING THAT PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY DEMAND THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OR IMPROVEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, STREET AND SIDEWALK REPAIR, TRAFFIC SAFETY, UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES, CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE, AND OTHER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES, AND SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE ON THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 BALLOT A MEASURE TO AUTHORIZE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR SUCH PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley (the “City”) is committed to creating and maintaining an equitable, affordable, and resilient City with housing opportunities, well-maintained infrastructure, and a public commons that welcomes and supports people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the urgent need for affordable housing and preventing homelessness, the accelerating impacts of climate change, and aging public buildings and infrastructure create challenges for safety, equity, sustainability, and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council (the “City Council”) has identified critically needed investments in affordable housing; improved streets and sidewalks; green, vibrant, and well-maintained parks, streetscapes and other open spaces; pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements; public and historic buildings and facilities; parks, pools, and the waterfront; and above- and below-ground infrastructure as integral to protecting the quality of life of all Berkeleyans and to the City’s long-term community and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the existence of an acute housing crisis that has caused housing to become increasingly scarce, expensive, and out of reach for teachers, seniors, people with disabilities, students, veterans, the homeless, and for other families and individuals with incomes at extremely low-, very low-, low-, median-, and middle-income levels; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing has been demonstrated to improve health, education, and employment outcomes and allows people to enjoy stable homes and still have enough money for groceries, medicine, transportation, and other basic needs; and

WHEREAS, the housing crisis is causing displacement of long-time communities, impacts local businesses’ ability to retain workers, and contributes to homelessness and housing insecurity, threatening the public health, peace, and safety; and

WHEREAS, successful programs initiated in recent years have decreased overall homelessness in Berkeley, but estimates project there are still roughly 1,000 homeless people in the City on any given night; and

WHEREAS, providing affordable housing for low-income and unhoused persons is important to alleviate the housing crisis and reduce the impacts of unsheltered homelessness on our streets, parks, and other public spaces; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018, Berkeley voters overwhelmingly approved Measure O, authorizing the City to issue \$135 million dollars in general obligation bonds for the purpose of building and preserving affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, leveraging Measure O funds with County, State, and Federal dollars, the City has provided 20 affordable housing projects with predevelopment or development funding, supporting the construction and rehabilitation of approximately 800 affordable housing units citywide; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 Berkeley's first Measure O-funded affordable housing projects opened their doors at 1601 Oxford Street in North Berkeley and 2012 Berkeley Way in the Downtown, welcoming seniors, working families, veterans, and formerly homeless individuals into dignified new homes with on-site supportive services; and

WHEREAS, the pace of affordable housing production has exceeded expectations and all Measure O funds have been allocated through commitments to existing and pending affordable housing projects; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation for the San Francisco Bay Area requires that Berkeley plan for and incentivize production of over 3,800 affordable housing units over the next eight years, and current funding is insufficient to finance this volume of affordable homes; and

WHEREAS, funds available through this bond measure can support production of up to 1,000 additional affordable housing units citywide, providing urgently needed housing for extremely low-, very low-, low-, median-, and middle-income families and individuals, and help the City achieve its goal of at least 10% reserved affordable housing citywide by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City's *Vision 2050 Framework* and *Program Plan* are comprehensive plans to build, upgrade, and repair Berkeley's infrastructure to be more sustainable, safe and resilient and to meet the needs of future generations, including addressing climate and environmental challenges; and

WHEREAS, much of Berkeley's public infrastructure was built over 75 years ago and is in need of refurbishment, modernization, and repair; and

WHEREAS, over \$1 billion dollars in infrastructure needs have been identified citywide, including street paving and reconstruction; improvements to sidewalks, paths, and bikeways; Bike and Pedestrian Plans ; undergrounding of utilities on evacuation routes and improvements to evacuation routes; measures to reduce the risk and impacts of climate change, including flooding through stormwater and sea level rise; improvements to City parks, camps (including the Tuolumne Family and Echo Lake Camps) and pools,

including a proposed pool at San Pablo Park; revitalization of Berkeley's historic Civic Center as a cultural and civic hub for the community; improvements to the Berkeley Waterfront and Municipal Pier; construction of a new Transfer Station and Recycling Center; improvements to public buildings; measures to make the City's public spaces more attractive, vibrant, and green; and other improvements to the City's infrastructure that will, among other things, make it more sustainable, enjoyable, and resilient; and

WHEREAS, in addition to hundreds of millions in infrastructure needs, the City has identified \$248 million in deferred street repairs and Berkeley's pavement is currently in an "at risk" condition as identified by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and failure to make street repairs in a timely manner results in costlier repairs in the future; and

WHEREAS, additional delay in addressing the City's critical infrastructure needs further escalates costs, and building climate-resilient infrastructure, including undergrounding of utilities on evacuation routes and managing stormwater runoff and sea level rise, will reduce the risk and costs of flooding and wildfires and make Berkeley a safer and more sustainable place to live; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 Berkeley voters overwhelmingly approved Measure T1, a \$100 million general obligation bond whose proceeds are being used to rehabilitate parks, infrastructure, and facilities citywide, including at the Frances Albrier Community Center, Live Oak Community Center, Strawberry Creek Park, Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex, Willard Park, George Florence Park, North Berkeley Senior Center, The Rose Garden, San Pablo Park, Harrison Park, the Marina, Aquatic Park, John Hinkel Park, King Pool, Grove Park, Civic Center Park, Ohlone Park, and Cazadero Camp; and at streets, sidewalks, storm drains, and other infrastructure citywide; and

WHEREAS, the full \$100 million of Measure T1 bond monies has already been allocated or committed to identified projects and the City has successfully leveraged regional, County, State, and Federal funds for these improvements, representing a significant gain for Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, to build on the success of projects funded through Measures O and T1 and to continue financing affordable housing and necessary improvements to facilities and infrastructure citywide, the City requires additional funds, which may be leveraged with regional, County, State, and Federal funds; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code provides for the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance, among other things, any municipal improvement and the acquisition or improvement of affordable housing projects; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to issue general obligation bonds pursuant to certain provisions of the California Government Code, including Article 1, commencing with Section 43600, of Chapter 4 of Division 4 of Title 4 or Article 4.5, commencing with Section 53506, of Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 (each, the "Bond Law"); and

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City intends to issue general obligation bonds (the “Bonds”) to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable and social housing (“Affordable Housing Improvements”), including the application of bond proceeds by the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations, and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts; and

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City further intends to issue the Bonds to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for public infrastructure and facilities (“Infrastructure Improvements”; together with Affordable Housing Improvements, “Improvements”), including but not limited to the City’s streets (including traffic safety improvements), sidewalks and paths; above or on ground utilities, including the undergrounding of utilities for fire safety; evacuation routes; pedestrian and bicycle facilities; parks, waterfront, the Municipal Pier, and other natural and landscaped areas; pool, recreation, and senior facilities; camps; buildings; storm drains, streetscapes, and green infrastructure; civic, historic, and cultural sites; zero waste facilities; retaining walls; and other public open spaces, buildings, infrastructure, facilities, and amenities, including building, repair, renovation, replacement, or reconstruction, so that the public can continue to benefit from more sustainable, resilient, and enjoyable public infrastructure and facilities, and the Infrastructure Improvements will include any public art integrated into the Infrastructure Improvements consistent with Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 6.13; and

WHEREAS, the City may have the opportunity to leverage Federal, State, County and regional funds allocated for these affordable housing and infrastructure projects if it issues the Bonds to address these needs; and

WHEREAS, fiscal accountability protections including public disclosure of all spending, annual audits, and independent oversight help ensure funds will be spent as promised; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Bonds should be guided by the City Council’s plans and policies, including the *Vision 2050 Framework* and *Program Plan* whose vision for a renewed City includes safe and enjoyable community facilities; safer, more sustainable streets; resilient and climate-friendly infrastructure; and open space, parks, and recreation facilities that improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Bonds should be applied to create attractive, green streetscapes that invite walking and biking and support the vitality of local businesses and commercial districts; spaces for community gathering and enjoyment; and native,

drought-resistant, and habitat-restoring landscaping with trees for cooling, improved air quality, and shade; and

WHEREAS, by law, all funds must remain under local control in the City and cannot be taken away by the State or the County or used for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of ensuring adequate maintenance funding from existing sources for Infrastructure Improvements financed by the Bonds and not supplanting existing City infrastructure funding with proceeds of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the City Council through Resolution No. 70,456-N.S. has adopted a fiscal policy to allocate \$8 million annually in General Fund monies for street maintenance (the "Street Maintenance Funding Policy"), to be adjusted annually for inflation. The allocation is intended to augment the existing street paving budget of \$7.3 million, for a total street maintenance commitment of \$15.3 million annually, adjusted for inflation; and

WHEREAS, the Street Maintenance Funding Policy will help ensure that deferred street maintenance is supported by adequate ongoing General Fund contributions, as one-time infusions of paving resources provide only temporary improvements in pavement conditions, which deteriorate again without appropriate funding for maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the City's adopted plans and policies, including the Vision 2050 Program Plan; pavement management system; and adopted Transportation, Bicycle, and Pedestrian plans, will guide how proceeds of the Bonds are spent to rehabilitate pavement and other elements of the City's transportation network and streetscapes; and

WHEREAS, United States Income Tax Regulations section 1.150-2 provides generally that proceeds of tax-exempt debt are not deemed to be expended when such proceeds are used for reimbursement of expenditures made prior to the date of issuance of such debt unless certain procedures are followed, one of which is a requirement that prior to the payment of any such expenditure, the issuer declares an intention to reimburse such expenditure; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest and for the public benefit that the City declares its official intent to reimburse certain of the proposed expenditures referenced herein; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be used to finance the Improvements, and all expenditures will be subject to annual independent financial audits and oversight by multiple City commissions; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to submit the measure described herein to be placed upon the ballot at the November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election, consistent with the Council's Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, calling for a General Municipal Election to be consolidated with said statewide election; and



WHEREAS, the Council's Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, adopted the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285(a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures, pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285(b).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berkeley that the public interest and necessity require the issuance of one or more series of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$600 million to fund the Improvements, subject to completion of the proceedings required by the Bond Law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is adopted pursuant to and in conformance with Chapter 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

- A. A ballot measure authorizing the City to issue general obligation bonds to finance the acquisition and improvement of real property for the Improvements (the "Measure"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, shall be placed before the voters at the election on November 8, 2022.
- B. The estimated cost of the Affordable Housing Improvements to be funded by the Bonds is \$150 million.
- C. Infrastructure Improvement projects to be funded by \$450 million in Bonds include but are not limited to the following. All dollar amounts included are estimates at the time of adoption of this Resolution and are not a commitment or guarantee that any specific amounts of Bond proceeds will be spent on particular Infrastructure Improvement projects or categories of Infrastructure Improvement projects.
  1. The estimated cost for the Infrastructure Improvements related to streets, roads and sidewalks to be funded by the Bonds is \$300 million of which: \$231 million is for street paving and reconstruction, with the balance for sidewalks and bike, pedestrian and traffic safety improvements.
  2. The estimated cost of climate resiliency and other Infrastructure Improvements funded by the Bonds is \$150 million, of which \$40 million is for undergrounding utilities on evacuation routes, with the balance for improving evacuation paths, improving and reconstructing the waterfront and pier, funding streetscape beautification/resiliency projects and improving other parks, camps, pools and public infrastructure.
- D. The maximum rate of interest on the Bonds shall not exceed the maximum interest rate permitted by law, in accordance with Government Code Section 53531.
- E. The estimated cost of the Improvements may include legal and other fees, and the cost of printing the Bonds, and other costs and expenses incidental to or connected with the issuance and sale of the Bonds.

- F. Proceeds of the Bonds shall be used to finance the acquisition and construction of real property for the Improvements, and to pay any fees and costs in connection with issuance of the Bonds, including but not limited to, legal fees and bond printing costs.
- G. The Improvements will be completed as needed, and each is assumed to include its share of costs, including planning, program management and construction costs. The final cost of each Improvement will be determined as real property is purchased, plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded, or projects are completed. In addition, certain acquisition or improvement funds are expected from sources other than the Bonds, including funds which have not yet been secured. Therefore, the City Council cannot guarantee that the Bonds will provide sufficient funds to allow completion of all needed Improvements.
- H. For the Affordable Housing Improvements, proceeds of the Bonds shall be used to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable or social housing, including the application of bond proceeds for the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts.
- I. As part of the process to adopt a budget and any budget updates, the City Manager shall provide to the City Council a comprehensive report of funds received from any Bonds authorized by this Measure, of previous appropriations and expenditures of such funds received, and a proposal for expenditure of additional funds received, if any, for review and approval by the City Council.
- J. The following commissions or their successors shall provide oversight by reporting to the City Council on an annual basis regarding projects funded by the Bonds and the expenditure of proceeds of the Bonds, whether those expenditures are consistent with the purposes of the Bonds set forth in this Resolution, and recommendations on projects proposed to be funded by the Bonds and proposed expenditures of the proceeds of the Bonds:
  - 1. The Housing Advisory Commission shall provide oversight on the Affordable Housing Improvements.
  - 2. The Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission shall provide oversight on Infrastructure Improvements related to properties and facilities identified

in Municipal Code Section 3.26.040.A, including all parks, recreation, and waterfront improvements.

3. The Transportation and Infrastructure Commission shall provide oversight on the Infrastructure Improvements related to transportation and other public infrastructure.

- K. All expenditures will be subject to an annual independent financial audit to confirm that expenditures of proceeds of the Bonds are consistent with the intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City hereby declares that it reasonably expects (i) to pay certain costs of the acquisition and improvement of real property for the Improvements prior to the date of execution, delivery or issuance of the Bonds, and (ii) to use a portion of the proceeds of the Bonds for reimbursement of such expenditures that are paid before the date of execution, delivery or issuance of the Bonds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to California Elections Code sections 10002 and 10403, this City Council does hereby call an election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, and requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors consolidate said election with the Statewide General Election on that same date and conduct the election in the manner prescribed in Elections Code Section 10418 and in the manner and schedule established by Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, and submit to the qualified voters of the City, at said consolidated election, the Measure, such approval to constitute the authorization to issue the Bonds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City proposes to issue and sell general obligation bonds of the City, in one or more series, in the maximum amount and for the objects and purposes set forth above, payable from and secured by ad valorem taxes levied and collected in the manner prescribed by laws of the State of California, all equally and ratably secured, without priority, by the taxing power of the City, if two-thirds of all qualified voters voting on the Measure vote in favor thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Measure shall be placed on the ballot for the November 8, 2022 election with the statement of the Measure to be printed in the ballot in the following form:

<b>CITY OF BERKELEY GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND MEASURE</b>	
Shall the measure to create/preserve affordable housing for seniors, working families, and homeless individuals, repave streets, repair sidewalks, improve pedestrian safety, underground utilities, enhance parks, pools, public buildings, and the waterfront, and improve other public infrastructure, authorizing \$600 million in bonds with a projected \$35.50 per \$100,000 assessed value levy (\$230 on the average home with a \$647,000 assessed valuation), raising \$23,000,000 annually until repaid, with City commission oversight/independent audits, be adopted?	BONDS YES
	BONDS NO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at this time, the best estimate of the average and highest tax rates expected to be levied for debt service on the Bonds is set forth in the Tax Rate Statement attached hereto as Exhibit B.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the Measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley, and that ballots for the election shall be provided in the form and in the number provided by law. Voters shall be provided an opportunity to vote for or against the Measure on the ballot, in accordance with procedures to be adopted by the authorized officers of the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the Measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California, and to file a certified copy of this Resolution, including all exhibits, no later than the close of business on August 12, 2022, with the County Registrar of Voters and the Clerk of the County Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the Measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, the City Manager, the Finance Director, the City Attorney and the City Clerk, and any of their designees, are hereby authorized to execute any documents and to perform all acts necessary to place the Measure on the ballot, and to make any changes to the text of the Measure, the statement of the measure or the Tax Rate Statement to conform to any legal requirements of the County Registrar, in order to cause the election to be held and conducted in the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of the Measure to the City Attorney, who shall prepare an impartial analysis of the Measure showing the effect of the Measure on the existing law and the operation of the Measure. The impartial analysis shall be filed by the date set by the City Clerk for the filing of primary arguments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the filing of ballot arguments shall conform to the manner and schedule established by Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council, having reviewed the Measure, hereby finds that this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it involves the establishment of a government financing mechanism that does not involve any commitment to specific projects to be constructed with proceeds of the Bonds. The use of the proceeds of the Bonds to finance any project or portion of any project will be subject to approval of the applicable decision-making body at that time, upon completion of planning and any further required environmental review under CEQA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect from and after the date of its passage and adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption thereof.

Exhibits

A: Text of Measure

B: Tax Rate Statement

**EXHIBIT A**

**MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OR IMPROVEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, STREET AND SIDEWALK REPAIR, TRAFFIC SAFETY, UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES, CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE, AND OTHER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES**

**Section 1. Findings.**

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley (the “City”) is committed to creating and maintaining an equitable, affordable, and resilient City with housing opportunities, well-maintained infrastructure, and a public commons that welcomes and supports people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the urgent need for affordable housing and preventing homelessness, the accelerating impacts of climate change, and aging public buildings and infrastructure create challenges for safety, equity, sustainability, and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council (the “City Council”) has identified critically needed investments in affordable housing; improved streets and sidewalks; green, vibrant, and well-maintained parks, streetscapes and other open spaces; pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements; public and historic buildings and facilities; parks, pools, and the waterfront; and above- and below-ground infrastructure as integral to protecting the quality of life of all Berkeleyans and to the City’s long-term community and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the existence of an acute housing crisis that has caused housing to become increasingly scarce, expensive, and out of reach for teachers, seniors, people with disabilities, students, veterans, the homeless, and for other families and individuals with incomes at extremely low-, very low-, low-, median-, and middle-income levels; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing has been demonstrated to improve health, education, and employment outcomes and allows people to enjoy stable homes and still have enough money for groceries, medicine, transportation, and other basic needs; and

WHEREAS, the housing crisis is causing displacement of long-time communities, impacts local businesses’ ability to retain workers, and contributes to homelessness and housing insecurity, threatening the public health, peace, and safety; and

WHEREAS, successful programs initiated in recent years have decreased overall homelessness in Berkeley, but estimates project there are still roughly 1,000 homeless people in the City on any given night; and

WHEREAS, providing affordable housing for low-income and unhoused persons is important to alleviate the housing crisis and reduce the impacts of unsheltered homelessness on our streets, parks, and other public spaces; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018, Berkeley voters overwhelmingly approved Measure O, authorizing the City to issue \$135 million dollars in general obligation bonds for the purpose of building and preserving affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, leveraging Measure O funds with County, State, and Federal dollars, the City has provided 20 affordable housing projects with predevelopment or development funding, supporting the construction and rehabilitation of approximately 800 affordable housing units citywide; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 Berkeley's first Measure O-funded affordable housing projects opened their doors at 1601 Oxford Street in North Berkeley and 2012 Berkeley Way in the Downtown, welcoming seniors, working families, veterans, and formerly homeless individuals into dignified new homes with on-site supportive services; and

WHEREAS, the pace of affordable housing production has exceeded expectations and all Measure O funds have been allocated through commitments to existing and pending affordable housing projects; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation for the San Francisco Bay Area requires that Berkeley plan for and incentivize production of over 3,800 affordable housing units over the next eight years, and current funding is insufficient to finance this volume of affordable homes; and

WHEREAS, funds available through this bond measure can support production of up to 1,000 additional affordable housing units citywide, providing urgently needed housing for extremely low-, very low-, low-, median-, and middle-income families and individuals, and help the City achieve its goal of at least 10% reserved affordable housing citywide by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City's *Vision 2050 Framework* and *Program Plan* are comprehensive plans to build, upgrade, and repair Berkeley's infrastructure to be more sustainable, safe and resilient and to meet the needs of future generations, including addressing climate and environmental challenges; and

WHEREAS, much of Berkeley's public infrastructure was built over 75 years ago and is in need of refurbishment, modernization, and repair; and

WHEREAS, over \$1 billion dollars in infrastructure needs have been identified citywide, including improvements needed for street pavement and reconstruction, sidewalks, paths, and bikeways; Bike and Pedestrian Plans ; undergrounding of utilities on evacuation routes and improving evacuation routes; reducing the risk and impacts of climate change, including flooding through stormwater and sea level rise; improving City

parks, camps (including the Tuolumne Family and Echo Lake Camps) and pools, including a proposed pool at San Pablo Park; revitalizing Berkeley's historic Civic Center as a cultural and civic hub for the community; improving the Berkeley Waterfront and Municipal Pier; building a new Transfer Station and Recycling Center; improving public buildings, and making the City's public spaces more attractive, vibrant, and green; and otherwise improving the City's infrastructure and making it more sustainable, enjoyable, and resilient; and

WHEREAS, in addition to hundreds of millions in infrastructure needs, the City has identified \$248 million in deferred street repairs and Berkeley's pavement is currently in an "at risk" condition as identified by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and failure to make street repairs in a timely manner results in costlier repairs in the future; and

WHEREAS, additional delay in addressing the City's critical infrastructure needs further escalates costs, and building climate-resilient infrastructure, including undergrounding of utilities on evacuation routes and managing stormwater runoff and sea level rise, will reduce the risk and costs of flooding and wildfires and make Berkeley a safer and more sustainable place to live; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 Berkeley voters overwhelmingly approved Measure T1, a \$100 million general obligation bond whose proceeds are being used to rehabilitate parks, infrastructure, and facilities citywide, including at the Frances Albrier Community Center, Live Oak Community Center, Strawberry Creek Park, Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex, Willard Park, George Florence Park, North Berkeley Senior Center, The Rose Garden, San Pablo Park, Harrison Park, the Marina, Aquatic Park, John Hinkel Park, King Pool, Grove Park, Civic Center Park, Ohlone Park, and Cazadero Camp; and at streets, sidewalks, storm drains, and other infrastructure citywide; and

WHEREAS, the full \$100 million of Measure T1 bond monies has already been allocated or committed to identified projects and the City has successfully leveraged regional, County, State, and Federal funds for these improvements, representing a significant gain for Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, to build on the success of projects funded through Measures O and T1 and to continue financing affordable housing and necessary improvements to facilities and infrastructure citywide, the City requires additional funds, which may be leveraged with regional, County, State, and Federal funds; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code provides for the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance, among other things, any municipal improvement and the acquisition or improvement of affordable housing projects; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to issue general obligation bonds pursuant to certain provisions of the California Government Code, including Article 1, commencing with



Section 43600, of Chapter 4 of Division 4 of Title 4 or Article 4.5, commencing with Section 53506, of Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 (each, the “Bond Law”); and

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City intends to issue general obligation bonds (the “Bonds”) to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable housing (“Affordable Housing Improvements”), including the application of bond proceeds by the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations, and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts;

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City further intends to issue the Bonds to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for public infrastructure and facilities (“Infrastructure Improvements”; together with Affordable Housing Improvements, “Improvements”), including but not limited to the City’s streets (including traffic safety improvements), sidewalks and paths; above or on ground utilities, including the undergrounding of utilities for fire safety; pedestrian and bicycle facilities; parks, waterfront, the Municipal Pier, and other natural and landscaped areas; pool, recreation and senior facilities; camps; buildings; storm drains, streetscapes, and green infrastructure; civic, historic, and cultural sites; zero waste facilities; retaining walls; and other public open spaces, buildings, infrastructure, facilities, and amenities, including building, repair, renovation, replacement, or reconstruction, so that the public can continue to benefit from more sustainable, resilient, and enjoyable public infrastructure and facilities, and the Infrastructure Improvements will include any public art integrated into the Infrastructure Improvements consistent with Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 6.13; and

WHEREAS, the City may have the opportunity to leverage Federal, State of California (“State”), regional, and County of Alameda (“County”) funds allocated for these affordable housing and infrastructure needs if it issues the Bonds to address these needs; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Bonds should be guided by the City Council’s plans and policies, including the *Vision 2050 Framework* and *Program Plan* whose vision for a renewed City includes safe and enjoyable community facilities; safer, more sustainable streets; resilient and climate-friendly infrastructure; and open space, parks, and recreation facilities that improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of ensuring adequate maintenance funding from existing sources for Infrastructure Improvements financed by the Bonds and not supplanting existing City infrastructure funding with proceeds of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the City Council through Resolution No. 70,456-N.S. has adopted a fiscal policy to allocate \$8 million annually in General Fund monies for street maintenance (the "Street Maintenance Funding Policy"), to be adjusted annually for inflation. The allocation is intended to augment the existing street paving budget of \$7.3 million, for a total street maintenance commitment of \$15.3 million annually, adjusted for inflation; and

WHEREAS, the Street Maintenance Funding Policy will help ensure that deferred street maintenance is supported by adequate ongoing General Fund contributions, as one-time infusions of paving resources provide only temporary improvements in pavement conditions, which deteriorate again without appropriate funding for maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the City's adopted plans and policies, including the Vision 2050 Program Plan; pavement management system; and adopted Transportation, Bicycle, and Pedestrian plans, as amended by the City Council from time to time, will guide how proceeds of the Bonds are spent to rehabilitate pavement and other elements of the City's transportation network and streetscapes; and

WHEREAS, fiscal accountability protections including public disclosure of all spending, annual audits and independent oversight help ensure funds will be spent as promised; and

WHEREAS, by law, all funds must remain under local control in the City and cannot be taken away by the State, County, or Federal governments or used for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, this measure is adopted pursuant to and in conformance with Chapter 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has therefore determined that the public interest requires additional funding for the Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the People of the City of Berkeley find that the public interest requires the issuance of the Bonds in the amount of \$600,000,000 to fund the Improvements.

## **Section 2. Object and Purpose of Bonds.**

This measure (the "Measure") authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds (the "Bonds"), the object and purpose of which is to finance, by the City of Berkeley or a third party, as applicable, the acquisition or improvement of real property for the Improvements.

The Improvements will be completed as needed, and each is assumed to include its share of costs, including planning, program management and construction costs. The final cost of each Improvement will be determined as real property is purchased, plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded, or projects are completed. In addition, certain acquisition or improvement funds are expected from sources other than proceeds of the Bonds,

including funds which have not yet been secured. Therefore, the City Council cannot guarantee that the Bonds will provide sufficient funds to allow completion of all needed Improvements.

For the Affordable Housing Improvements, proceeds of the Bonds shall be used to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable and social housing, including the application of bond proceeds for the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts.

Proceeds of the Bonds may be used to reimburse the City for expenditures on the Improvements that are paid before the date of execution, delivery or issuance of the Bonds.

### **Section 3. Estimated Cost of Improvements.**

The estimated cost of the Affordable Housing Improvements to be funded by the Bonds is \$150 million, and the estimated cost for the Infrastructure Improvements to be funded by the Bonds is an additional \$450 million.

The estimated cost includes legal and other fees and the cost of printing the Bonds and other costs and expenses incidental to or connected with the authorization, issuance or sale of the Bonds. The cost of the Improvements includes planning, programs management and construction costs.

### **Section 4. Principal Amount of Bonds.**

The aggregate principal amount of Bonds to be issued shall not exceed \$600 million.

### **Section 5. Maximum Interest Rate.**

The maximum rate of interest to be paid on the Bonds shall not exceed the maximum interest rate permitted by law, in accordance with Government Code Section 53531.

### **Section 5. Accountability Requirements.**

The following accountability measures apply to the issuance of Bonds pursuant to this Measure:

- A. The specific purpose of the Bonds is to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for the Improvements; and

- B. The proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be used only for the purposes specified in this Measure, and not for any other purpose; and
- C. The proceeds of the Bonds will be deposited into an account to be created and held by the City; and
- D. The proceeds from the sale of the Bonds may be used to reimburse the City for amounts advanced from the general fund or other funds or accounts to acquire real property for Improvements, when such purchases are made prior to the availability of Bond proceeds; and
- E. As part of the process to adopt a budget or budget update, the City Manager shall provide to the City Council a comprehensive report of funds received from any bonded indebtedness authorized by this Measure, funds expended, funds allocated or proposed to be allocated, and the status of the Improvements.
- F. The following commissions or their successors shall provide oversight by reporting to the City Council on an annual basis regarding projects funded by the bond and bond expenditures, whether those bond expenditures are consistent with the purposes of the bond, and recommendations on projects proposed to be funded by the bond and bond expenditures:
  - 1. The Housing Advisory Commission shall provide oversight on the Affordable Housing Improvements.
  - 2. The Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission shall provide oversight on Infrastructure Improvements related to properties and facilities identified in Municipal Code Section 3.26.040.A, including all parks, recreation, and waterfront improvements.
  - 3. The Transportation and Infrastructure Commission shall provide oversight on the Infrastructure Improvements related to transportation and other public infrastructure.
- G. All expenditures will be subject to an annual independent financial audit to confirm that Bond expenditures are consistent with the intent of this Measure.

## EXHIBIT B

### TAX RATE STATEMENT

An election will be held in the City of Berkeley (the "City") on November 8, 2022, to authorize the sale of up to \$600 million in bonds of the City to finance the specific projects listed in the measure. If such bonds are authorized, the City expects to sell the bonds in one or more series. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable solely from the proceeds of ad valorem tax levies made upon the taxable property in the City. The following information is provided in compliance with Sections 9400-9404 of the California Elections Code. Such information is based upon the best estimates and projections presently available from official sources, upon experience within the City, and other demonstrable factors.

Based upon the foregoing and projections of the City's assessed valuation:

1. The best estimate of the average annual tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue over the entire duration of the bond debt service, based on a projection of assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement is 36 cents per \$100 (or \$36.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation of all property to be taxed. The best estimate of the final fiscal year in which the tax is anticipated to be collected is 2067/68.
2. The best estimate of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue, based on a projection of assessed valuations available at the time of filing this statement is 65 cents per \$100 (or \$65.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation of all property to be taxed. The best estimate of the first year in which the highest tax rate will apply is 2038/39.
3. The best estimate of the total debt service, including the principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the bonds are issued and sold is \$1,040,000,000

Voters should note that such estimated tax rates are specific to the repayment of bonds issued under this authorization and will be in addition to tax rates levied in connection with other bond authorizations approved or to be approved by the City or any other overlapping public agency.

Voters should note that the estimated tax rate is based on the ASSESSED VALUE of taxable property on Alameda County's official tax rolls, not on the property's market value. In addition, taxpayers eligible for a property tax exemption, such as the homeowner's exemption, will be taxed at a lower effective tax rate than described above. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property's assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon projections and estimates only, which amounts are not maximum amounts or durations and are not binding upon the City. The actual debt service amounts, tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary from those presently estimated, due to variations from these estimates in the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold and market interest rates at the time of each sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds. The dates of sale and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the City based on need for funds and other factors. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on the bond market at the time of each sale. Actual future assessed valuation will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the City as determined by the Alameda County assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

Dated: July \_\_, 2022

/s/ DEE WILLIAMS-RIDLEY  
City Manager, City of Berkeley

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

DETERMINING THAT PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY DEMAND THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OR IMPROVEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, STREET AND SIDEWALK REPAIR, TRAFFIC SAFETY, UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES, CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE, AND OTHER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES, AND SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE ON THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 BALLOT A MEASURE TO AUTHORIZE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR SUCH PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley (the “City”) is committed to creating and maintaining an equitable, affordable, and resilient City with housing opportunities, well-maintained infrastructure, and a public commons that welcomes and supports people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the urgent need for affordable housing and preventing homelessness, the accelerating impacts of climate change, and aging public buildings and infrastructure create challenges for safety, equity, sustainability, and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council (the “City Council”) has identified critically needed investments in affordable housing; improved streets and sidewalks; green, vibrant, and well-maintained parks, streetscapes and other open spaces; pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements; public and historic buildings and facilities; parks, pools, and the waterfront; and above- and below-ground infrastructure as integral to protecting the quality of life of all Berkeleyans and to the City’s long-term community and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the existence of an acute housing crisis that has caused housing to become increasingly scarce, expensive, and out of reach for teachers, seniors, people with disabilities, students, veterans, the homeless, and for other families and individuals with incomes at extremely low-, very low-, low-, median-, and middle-income levels; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing has been demonstrated to improve health, education, and employment outcomes and allows people to enjoy stable homes and still have enough money for groceries, medicine, transportation, and other basic needs; and

WHEREAS, the housing crisis is causing displacement of long-time communities, impacts local businesses’ ability to retain workers, and contributes to homelessness and housing insecurity, threatening the public health, peace, and safety; and

WHEREAS, successful programs initiated in recent years have decreased overall homelessness in Berkeley, but estimates project there are still roughly 1,000 homeless people in the City on any given night; and

WHEREAS, providing affordable housing for low-income and unhoused persons is important to alleviate the housing crisis and reduce the impacts of unsheltered homelessness on our streets, parks, and other public spaces; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018, Berkeley voters overwhelmingly approved Measure O, authorizing the City to issue \$135 million dollars in general obligation bonds for the purpose of building and preserving affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, leveraging Measure O funds with County, State, and Federal dollars, the City has provided 20 affordable housing projects with predevelopment or development funding, supporting the construction and rehabilitation of approximately 800 affordable housing units citywide; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 Berkeley's first Measure O-funded affordable housing projects opened their doors at 1601 Oxford Street in North Berkeley and 2012 Berkeley Way in the Downtown, welcoming seniors, working families, veterans, and formerly homeless individuals into dignified new homes with on-site supportive services; and

WHEREAS, the pace of affordable housing production has exceeded expectations and all Measure O funds have been allocated through commitments to existing and pending affordable housing projects; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation for the San Francisco Bay Area requires that Berkeley plan for and incentivize production of over 3,800 affordable housing units over the next eight years, and current funding is insufficient to finance this volume of affordable homes; and

WHEREAS, funds available through this bond measure can support production of up to 1,000 additional affordable housing units citywide, providing urgently needed housing for extremely low-, very low-, low-, median-, and middle-income families and individuals, and help the City achieve its goal of at least 10% reserved affordable housing citywide by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City's *Vision 2050 Framework* and *Program Plan* are comprehensive plans to build, upgrade, and repair Berkeley's infrastructure to be more sustainable, safe and resilient and to meet the needs of future generations, including addressing climate and environmental challenges; and

WHEREAS, much of Berkeley's public infrastructure was built over 75 years ago and is in need of refurbishment, modernization, and repair; and

WHEREAS, over \$1 billion dollars in infrastructure needs have been identified citywide, including street paving and reconstruction; improvements to sidewalks, paths, and bikeways; Bike and Pedestrian Plans ; undergrounding of utilities on evacuation routes and improvements to evacuation routes; measures to reduce the risk and impacts of climate change, including flooding through stormwater and sea level rise; improvements to City parks, camps (including the Tuolumne Family and Echo Lake Camps) and pools,



including a proposed pool at San Pablo Park; revitalization of Berkeley's historic Civic Center as a cultural and civic hub for the community; improvements to the Berkeley Waterfront and Municipal Pier; construction of a new Transfer Station and Recycling Center; improvements to public buildings; measures to make the City's public spaces more attractive, vibrant, and green; and other improvements to the City's infrastructure that will, among other things, make it more sustainable, enjoyable, and resilient; and

WHEREAS, in addition to hundreds of millions in infrastructure needs, the City has identified \$248 million in deferred street repairs and Berkeley's pavement is currently in an "at risk" condition as identified by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and failure to make street repairs in a timely manner results in costlier repairs in the future; and

WHEREAS, additional delay in addressing the City's critical infrastructure needs further escalates costs, and building climate-resilient infrastructure, including undergrounding of utilities on evacuation routes and managing stormwater runoff and sea level rise, will reduce the risk and costs of flooding and wildfires and make Berkeley a safer and more sustainable place to live; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 Berkeley voters overwhelmingly approved Measure T1, a \$100 million general obligation bond whose proceeds are being used to rehabilitate parks, infrastructure, and facilities citywide, including at the Frances Albrier Community Center, Live Oak Community Center, Strawberry Creek Park, Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex, Willard Park, George Florence Park, North Berkeley Senior Center, The Rose Garden, San Pablo Park, Harrison Park, the Marina, Aquatic Park, John Hinkel Park, King Pool, Grove Park, Civic Center Park, Ohlone Park, and Cazadero Camp; and at streets, sidewalks, storm drains, and other infrastructure citywide; and

WHEREAS, the full \$100 million of Measure T1 bond monies has already been allocated or committed to identified projects and the City has successfully leveraged regional, County, State, and Federal funds for these improvements, representing a significant gain for Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, to build on the success of projects funded through Measures O and T1 and to continue financing affordable housing and necessary improvements to facilities and infrastructure citywide, the City requires additional funds, which may be leveraged with regional, County, State, and Federal funds; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code provides for the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance, among other things, any municipal improvement and the acquisition or improvement of affordable housing projects; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to issue general obligation bonds pursuant to certain provisions of the California Government Code, including Article 1, commencing with Section 43600, of Chapter 4 of Division 4 of Title 4 or Article 4.5, commencing with Section 53506, of Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 (each, the "Bond Law"); and

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City intends to issue general obligation bonds (the “Bonds”) to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable and social housing (“Affordable Housing Improvements”), including the application of bond proceeds by the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations, and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts; and

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City further intends to issue the Bonds to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for public infrastructure and facilities (“Infrastructure Improvements”; together with Affordable Housing Improvements, “Improvements”), including but not limited to the City’s streets (including traffic safety improvements), sidewalks and paths; above or on ground utilities, including the undergrounding of utilities for fire safety; evacuation routes; pedestrian and bicycle facilities; parks, waterfront, the Municipal Pier, and other natural and landscaped areas; pool, recreation, and senior facilities; camps; buildings; storm drains, streetscapes, and green infrastructure; civic, historic, and cultural sites; zero waste facilities; retaining walls; and other public open spaces, buildings, infrastructure, facilities, and amenities, including building, repair, renovation, replacement, or reconstruction, so that the public can continue to benefit from more sustainable, resilient, and enjoyable public infrastructure and facilities, and the Infrastructure Improvements will include any public art integrated into the Infrastructure Improvements consistent with Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 6.13; and

WHEREAS, the City may have the opportunity to leverage Federal, State, County and regional funds allocated for these affordable housing and infrastructure projects if it issues the Bonds to address these needs; and

WHEREAS, fiscal accountability protections including public disclosure of all spending, annual audits, and independent oversight help ensure funds will be spent as promised; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Bonds should be guided by the City Council’s plans and policies, including the *Vision 2050 Framework* and *Program Plan* whose vision for a renewed City includes safe and enjoyable community facilities; safer, more sustainable streets; resilient and climate-friendly infrastructure; and open space, parks, and recreation facilities that improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Bonds should be applied to create attractive, green streetscapes that invite walking and biking and support the vitality of local businesses and commercial districts; spaces for community gathering and enjoyment; and native,

drought-resistant, and habitat-restoring landscaping with trees for cooling, improved air quality, and shade; and

WHEREAS, by law, all funds must remain under local control in the City and cannot be taken away by the State or the County or used for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of ensuring adequate maintenance funding from existing sources for Infrastructure Improvements financed by the Bonds and not supplanting existing City infrastructure funding with proceeds of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the City Council through Resolution No. 70,456-N.S. has adopted a fiscal policy to allocate \$8 million annually in General Fund monies for street maintenance (the "Street Maintenance Funding Policy"), to be adjusted annually for inflation. The allocation is intended to augment the existing street paving budget of \$7.3 million, for a total street maintenance commitment of \$15.3 million annually, adjusted for inflation; and

WHEREAS, the Street Maintenance Funding Policy will help ensure that deferred street maintenance is supported by adequate ongoing General Fund contributions, as one-time infusions of paving resources provide only temporary improvements in pavement conditions, which deteriorate again without appropriate funding for maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the City's adopted plans and policies, including the Vision 2050 Program Plan; pavement management system; and adopted Transportation, Bicycle, and Pedestrian plans, will guide how proceeds of the Bonds are spent to rehabilitate pavement and other elements of the City's transportation network and streetscapes; and

WHEREAS, United States Income Tax Regulations section 1.150-2 provides generally that proceeds of tax-exempt debt are not deemed to be expended when such proceeds are used for reimbursement of expenditures made prior to the date of issuance of such debt unless certain procedures are followed, one of which is a requirement that prior to the payment of any such expenditure, the issuer declares an intention to reimburse such expenditure; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest and for the public benefit that the City declares its official intent to reimburse certain of the proposed expenditures referenced herein; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be used to finance the Improvements, and all expenditures will be subject to annual independent financial audits and oversight by multiple City commissions; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to submit the measure described herein to be placed upon the ballot at the November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election, consistent with the Council's Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, calling for a General Municipal Election to be consolidated with said statewide election; and

WHEREAS, the Council's Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, adopted the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285(a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures, pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285(b).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berkeley that the public interest and necessity require the issuance of one or more series of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$650 million to fund the Improvements, subject to completion of the proceedings required by the Bond Law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is adopted pursuant to and in conformance with Chapter 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

- A. A ballot measure authorizing the City to issue general obligation bonds to finance the acquisition and improvement of real property for the Improvements (the "Measure"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, shall be placed before the voters at the election on November 8, 2022.
- B. The estimated cost of the Affordable Housing Improvements to be funded by the Bonds is \$150 million.
- C. Infrastructure Improvement projects to be funded by \$500 million in Bonds include but are not limited to the following. All dollar amounts included are estimates at the time of adoption of this Resolution and are not a commitment or guarantee that any specific amounts of Bond proceeds will be spent on particular Infrastructure Improvement projects or categories of Infrastructure Improvement projects.
  1. The estimated cost for the Infrastructure Improvements related to streets, roads and sidewalks to be funded by the Bonds is \$300 million of which: \$231 million is for street paving and reconstruction, with the balance for sidewalks and bike, pedestrian and traffic safety improvements.
  2. The estimated cost of climate resiliency and other Infrastructure Improvements funded by the Bonds is \$200 million, of which \$50 million is for undergrounding utilities on evacuation routes, with the balance for improving evacuation paths, improving and reconstructing the waterfront and pier, funding streetscape beautification/resiliency projects and improving other parks, camps, pools and public infrastructure.
- D. The maximum rate of interest on the Bonds shall not exceed the maximum interest rate permitted by law, in accordance with Government Code Section 53531.

- E. The estimated cost of the Improvements may include legal and other fees, and the cost of printing the Bonds, and other costs and expenses incidental to or connected with the issuance and sale of the Bonds.
- F. Proceeds of the Bonds shall be used to finance the acquisition and construction of real property for the Improvements, and to pay any fees and costs in connection with issuance of the Bonds, including but not limited to, legal fees and bond printing costs.
- G. The Improvements will be completed as needed, and each is assumed to include its share of costs, including planning, program management and construction costs. The final cost of each Improvement will be determined as real property is purchased, plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded, or projects are completed. In addition, certain acquisition or improvement funds are expected from sources other than the Bonds, including funds which have not yet been secured. Therefore, the City Council cannot guarantee that the Bonds will provide sufficient funds to allow completion of all needed Improvements.
- H. For the Affordable Housing Improvements, proceeds of the Bonds shall be used to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable or social housing, including the application of bond proceeds for the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts.
- I. As part of the process to adopt a budget and any budget updates, the City Manager shall provide to the City Council a comprehensive report of funds received from any Bonds authorized by this Measure, of previous appropriations and expenditures of such funds received, and a proposal for expenditure of additional funds received, if any, for review and approval by the City Council.
- J. The following commissions or their successors shall provide oversight by reporting to the City Council on an annual basis regarding projects funded by the Bonds and the expenditure of proceeds of the Bonds, whether those expenditures are consistent with the purposes of the Bonds set forth in this Resolution, and recommendations on projects proposed to be funded by the Bonds and proposed expenditures of the proceeds of the Bonds:

1. The Housing Advisory Commission shall provide oversight on the Affordable Housing Improvements.
2. The Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission shall provide oversight on Infrastructure Improvements related to properties and facilities identified in Municipal Code Section 3.26.040.A, including all parks, recreation, and waterfront improvements.
3. The Transportation and Infrastructure Commission shall provide oversight on the Infrastructure Improvements related to transportation and other public infrastructure.

K. All expenditures will be subject to an annual independent financial audit to confirm that expenditures of proceeds of the Bonds are consistent with the intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City hereby declares that it reasonably expects (i) to pay certain costs of the acquisition and improvement of real property for the Improvements prior to the date of execution, delivery or issuance of the Bonds, and (ii) to use a portion of the proceeds of the Bonds for reimbursement of such expenditures that are paid before the date of execution, delivery or issuance of the Bonds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to California Elections Code sections 10002 and 10403, this City Council does hereby call an election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, and requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors consolidate said election with the Statewide General Election on that same date and conduct the election in the manner prescribed in Elections Code Section 10418 and in the manner and schedule established by Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, and submit to the qualified voters of the City, at said consolidated election, the Measure, such approval to constitute the authorization to issue the Bonds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City proposes to issue and sell general obligation bonds of the City, in one or more series, in the maximum amount and for the objects and purposes set forth above, payable from and secured by ad valorem taxes levied and collected in the manner prescribed by laws of the State of California, all equally and ratably secured, without priority, by the taxing power of the City, if two-thirds of all qualified voters voting on the Measure vote in favor thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Measure shall be placed on the ballot for the November 8, 2022 election with the statement of the Measure to be printed in the ballot in the following form:

<b>CITY OF BERKELEY GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND MEASURE</b>	
Shall the measure to create/preserve affordable housing for seniors, working families, and homeless individuals, repave streets, repair sidewalks, improve pedestrian safety, underground utilities, enhance parks, pools, public buildings, and the waterfront, and improve other public infrastructure, authorizing \$650 million in bonds with a projected \$38.60 per \$100,000 assessed value levy (\$250 on the average home with a \$647,000 assessed valuation), raising \$23,000,000 annually until repaid, with City commission oversight/independent audits, be adopted?	BONDS YES
	BONDS NO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at this time, the best estimate of the average and highest tax rates expected to be levied for debt service on the Bonds is set forth in the Tax Rate Statement attached hereto as Exhibit B.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the Measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley, and that ballots for the election shall be provided in the form and in the number provided by law. Voters shall be provided an opportunity to vote for or against the Measure on the ballot, in accordance with procedures to be adopted by the authorized officers of the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the Measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California, and to file a certified copy of this Resolution, including all exhibits, no later than the close of business on August 12, 2022, with the County Registrar of Voters and the Clerk of the County Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the

statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the Measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, the City Manager, the Finance Director, the City Attorney and the City Clerk, and any of their designees, are hereby authorized to execute any documents and to perform all acts necessary to place the Measure on the ballot, and to make any changes to the text of the Measure, the statement of the measure or the Tax Rate Statement to conform to any legal requirements of the County Registrar, in order to cause the election to be held and conducted in the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of the Measure to the City Attorney, who shall prepare an impartial analysis of the Measure showing the effect of the Measure on the existing law and the operation of the Measure. The impartial analysis shall be filed by the date set by the City Clerk for the filing of primary arguments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the filing of ballot arguments shall conform to the manner and schedule established by Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council, having reviewed the Measure, hereby finds that this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it involves the establishment of a government financing mechanism that does not involve any commitment to specific projects to be constructed with proceeds of the Bonds. The use of the proceeds of the Bonds to finance any project or portion of any project will be subject to approval of the applicable decision-making body at that time, upon completion of planning and any further required environmental review under CEQA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect from and after the date of its passage and adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption thereof.

Exhibits

A: Text of Measure

B: Tax Rate Statement



**EXHIBIT A**

**MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OR IMPROVEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, STREET AND SIDEWALK REPAIR, TRAFFIC SAFETY, UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES, CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE, AND OTHER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES**

**Section 1. Findings.**

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley (the “City”) is committed to creating and maintaining an equitable, affordable, and resilient City with housing opportunities, well-maintained infrastructure, and a public commons that welcomes and supports people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the urgent need for affordable housing and preventing homelessness, the accelerating impacts of climate change, and aging public buildings and infrastructure create challenges for safety, equity, sustainability, and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council (the “City Council”) has identified critically needed investments in affordable housing; improved streets and sidewalks; green, vibrant, and well-maintained parks, streetscapes and other open spaces; pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements; public and historic buildings and facilities; parks, pools, and the waterfront; and above- and below-ground infrastructure as integral to protecting the quality of life of all Berkeleyans and to the City’s long-term community and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the existence of an acute housing crisis that has caused housing to become increasingly scarce, expensive, and out of reach for teachers, seniors, people with disabilities, students, veterans, the homeless, and for other families and individuals with incomes at extremely low-, very low-, low-, median-, and middle-income levels; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing has been demonstrated to improve health, education, and employment outcomes and allows people to enjoy stable homes and still have enough money for groceries, medicine, transportation, and other basic needs; and

WHEREAS, the housing crisis is causing displacement of long-time communities, impacts local businesses’ ability to retain workers, and contributes to homelessness and housing insecurity, threatening the public health, peace, and safety; and

WHEREAS, successful programs initiated in recent years have decreased overall homelessness in Berkeley, but estimates project there are still roughly 1,000 homeless people in the City on any given night; and

WHEREAS, providing affordable housing for low-income and unhoused persons is important to alleviate the housing crisis and reduce the impacts of unsheltered homelessness on our streets, parks, and other public spaces; and

WHEREAS, in November 2018, Berkeley voters overwhelmingly approved Measure O, authorizing the City to issue \$135 million dollars in general obligation bonds for the purpose of building and preserving affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, leveraging Measure O funds with County, State, and Federal dollars, the City has provided 20 affordable housing projects with predevelopment or development funding, supporting the construction and rehabilitation of approximately 800 affordable housing units citywide; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 Berkeley's first Measure O-funded affordable housing projects opened their doors at 1601 Oxford Street in North Berkeley and 2012 Berkeley Way in the Downtown, welcoming seniors, working families, veterans, and formerly homeless individuals into dignified new homes with on-site supportive services; and

WHEREAS, the pace of affordable housing production has exceeded expectations and all Measure O funds have been allocated through commitments to existing and pending affordable housing projects; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation for the San Francisco Bay Area requires that Berkeley plan for and incentivize production of over 3,800 affordable housing units over the next eight years, and current funding is insufficient to finance this volume of affordable homes; and

WHEREAS, funds available through this bond measure can support production of up to 1,000 additional affordable housing units citywide, providing urgently needed housing for extremely low-, very low-, low-, median-, and middle-income families and individuals, and help the City achieve its goal of at least 10% reserved affordable housing citywide by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City's *Vision 2050 Framework* and *Program Plan* are comprehensive plans to build, upgrade, and repair Berkeley's infrastructure to be more sustainable, safe and resilient and to meet the needs of future generations, including addressing climate and environmental challenges; and

WHEREAS, much of Berkeley's public infrastructure was built over 75 years ago and is in need of refurbishment, modernization, and repair; and

WHEREAS, over \$1 billion dollars in infrastructure needs have been identified citywide, including improvements needed for street pavement and reconstruction, sidewalks, paths, and bikeways; Bike and Pedestrian Plans ; undergrounding of utilities on evacuation routes and improving evacuation routes; reducing the risk and impacts of

climate change, including flooding through stormwater and sea level rise; improving City parks, camps (including the Tuolumne Family and Echo Lake Camps) and pools, including a proposed pool at San Pablo Park; revitalizing Berkeley's historic Civic Center as a cultural and civic hub for the community; improving the Berkeley Waterfront and Municipal Pier; building a new Transfer Station and Recycling Center; improving public buildings, and making the City's public spaces more attractive, vibrant, and green; and otherwise improving the City's infrastructure and making it more sustainable, enjoyable, and resilient; and

WHEREAS, in addition to hundreds of millions in infrastructure needs, the City has identified \$248 million in deferred street repairs and Berkeley's pavement is currently in an "at risk" condition as identified by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and failure to make street repairs in a timely manner results in costlier repairs in the future; and

WHEREAS, additional delay in addressing the City's critical infrastructure needs further escalates costs, and building climate-resilient infrastructure, including undergrounding of utilities on evacuation routes and managing stormwater runoff and sea level rise, will reduce the risk and costs of flooding and wildfires and make Berkeley a safer and more sustainable place to live; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 Berkeley voters overwhelmingly approved Measure T1, a \$100 million general obligation bond whose proceeds are being used to rehabilitate parks, infrastructure, and facilities citywide, including at the Frances Albrier Community Center, Live Oak Community Center, Strawberry Creek Park, Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex, Willard Park, George Florence Park, North Berkeley Senior Center, The Rose Garden, San Pablo Park, Harrison Park, the Marina, Aquatic Park, John Hinkel Park, King Pool, Grove Park, Civic Center Park, Ohlone Park, and Cazadero Camp; and at streets, sidewalks, storm drains, and other infrastructure citywide; and

WHEREAS, the full \$100 million of Measure T1 bond monies has already been allocated or committed to identified projects and the City has successfully leveraged regional, County, State, and Federal funds for these improvements, representing a significant gain for Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, to build on the success of projects funded through Measures O and T1 and to continue financing affordable housing and necessary improvements to facilities and infrastructure citywide, the City requires additional funds, which may be leveraged with regional, County, State, and Federal funds; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code provides for the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance, among other things, any municipal improvement and the acquisition or improvement of affordable housing projects; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to issue general obligation bonds pursuant to certain provisions of the California Government Code, including Article 1, commencing with

Section 43600, of Chapter 4 of Division 4 of Title 4 or Article 4.5, commencing with Section 53506, of Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 (each, the “Bond Law”); and

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City intends to issue general obligation bonds (the “Bonds”) to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable housing (“Affordable Housing Improvements”), including the application of bond proceeds by the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations, and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts;

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City further intends to issue the Bonds to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for public infrastructure and facilities (“Infrastructure Improvements”; together with Affordable Housing Improvements, “Improvements”), including but not limited to the City’s streets (including traffic safety improvements), sidewalks and paths; above or on ground utilities, including the undergrounding of utilities for fire safety; pedestrian and bicycle facilities; parks, waterfront, the Municipal Pier, and other natural and landscaped areas; pool, recreation and senior facilities; camps; buildings; storm drains, streetscapes, and green infrastructure; civic, historic, and cultural sites; zero waste facilities; retaining walls; and other public open spaces, buildings, infrastructure, facilities, and amenities, including building, repair, renovation, replacement, or reconstruction, so that the public can continue to benefit from more sustainable, resilient, and enjoyable public infrastructure and facilities, and the Infrastructure Improvements will include any public art integrated into the Infrastructure Improvements consistent with Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 6.13; and

WHEREAS, the City may have the opportunity to leverage Federal, State of California (“State”), regional, and County of Alameda (“County”) funds allocated for these affordable housing and infrastructure needs if it issues the Bonds to address these needs; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Bonds should be guided by the City Council’s plans and policies, including the *Vision 2050 Framework* and *Program Plan* whose vision for a renewed City includes safe and enjoyable community facilities; safer, more sustainable streets; resilient and climate-friendly infrastructure; and open space, parks, and recreation facilities that improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of ensuring adequate maintenance funding from existing sources for Infrastructure Improvements financed by the Bonds and not supplanting existing City infrastructure funding with proceeds of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the City Council through Resolution No. 70,456-N.S. has adopted a fiscal policy to allocate \$8 million annually in General Fund monies for street maintenance (the "Street Maintenance Funding Policy"), to be adjusted annually for inflation. The allocation is intended to augment the existing street paving budget of \$7.3 million, for a total street maintenance commitment of \$15.3 million annually, adjusted for inflation; and

WHEREAS, the Street Maintenance Funding Policy will help ensure that deferred street maintenance is supported by adequate ongoing General Fund contributions, as one-time infusions of paving resources provide only temporary improvements in pavement conditions, which deteriorate again without appropriate funding for maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the City's adopted plans and policies, including the Vision 2050 Program Plan; pavement management system; and adopted Transportation, Bicycle, and Pedestrian plans, as amended by the City Council from time to time, will guide how proceeds of the Bonds are spent to rehabilitate pavement and other elements of the City's transportation network and streetscapes; and

WHEREAS, fiscal accountability protections including public disclosure of all spending, annual audits and independent oversight help ensure funds will be spent as promised; and

WHEREAS, by law, all funds must remain under local control in the City and cannot be taken away by the State, County, or Federal governments or used for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, this measure is adopted pursuant to and in conformance with Chapter 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has therefore determined that the public interest requires additional funding for the Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the People of the City of Berkeley find that the public interest requires the issuance of the Bonds in the amount of \$650,000,000 to fund the Improvements.

## **Section 2. Object and Purpose of Bonds.**

This measure (the "Measure") authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds (the "Bonds"), the object and purpose of which is to finance, by the City of Berkeley or a third party, as applicable, the acquisition or improvement of real property for the Improvements.

The Improvements will be completed as needed, and each is assumed to include its share of costs, including planning, program management and construction costs. The final cost of each Improvement will be determined as real property is purchased, plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded, or projects are completed. In addition, certain acquisition or improvement funds are expected from sources other than proceeds of the Bonds,

including funds which have not yet been secured. Therefore, the City Council cannot guarantee that the Bonds will provide sufficient funds to allow completion of all needed Improvements.

For the Affordable Housing Improvements, proceeds of the Bonds shall be used to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable and social housing, including the application of bond proceeds for the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts.

Proceeds of the Bonds may be used to reimburse the City for expenditures on the Improvements that are paid before the date of execution, delivery or issuance of the Bonds.

**Section 3. Estimated Cost of Improvements.**

The estimated cost of the Affordable Housing Improvements to be funded by the Bonds is \$150 million, and the estimated cost for the Infrastructure Improvements to be funded by the Bonds is an additional \$500 million.

The estimated cost includes legal and other fees and the cost of printing the Bonds and other costs and expenses incidental to or connected with the authorization, issuance or sale of the Bonds. The cost of the Improvements includes planning, programs management and construction costs.

**Section 4. Principal Amount of Bonds.**

The aggregate principal amount of Bonds to be issued shall not exceed \$650 million.

**Section 5. Maximum Interest Rate.**

The maximum rate of interest to be paid on the Bonds shall not exceed the maximum interest rate permitted by law, in accordance with Government Code Section 53531.

**Section 5. Accountability Requirements.**

The following accountability measures apply to the issuance of Bonds pursuant to this Measure:

- A. The specific purpose of the Bonds is to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for the Improvements; and

- B. The proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be used only for the purposes specified in this Measure, and not for any other purpose; and
- C. The proceeds of the Bonds will be deposited into an account to be created and held by the City; and
- D. The proceeds from the sale of the Bonds may be used to reimburse the City for amounts advanced from the general fund or other funds or accounts to acquire real property for Improvements, when such purchases are made prior to the availability of Bond proceeds; and
- E. As part of the process to adopt a budget or budget update, the City Manager shall provide to the City Council a comprehensive report of funds received from any bonded indebtedness authorized by this Measure, funds expended, funds allocated or proposed to be allocated, and the status of the Improvements.
- F. The following commissions or their successors shall provide oversight by reporting to the City Council on an annual basis regarding projects funded by the bond and bond expenditures, whether those bond expenditures are consistent with the purposes of the bond, and recommendations on projects proposed to be funded by the bond and bond expenditures:
  - 1. The Housing Advisory Commission shall provide oversight on the Affordable Housing Improvements.
  - 2. The Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission shall provide oversight on Infrastructure Improvements related to properties and facilities identified in Municipal Code Section 3.26.040.A, including all parks, recreation, and waterfront improvements.
  - 3. The Transportation and Infrastructure Commission shall provide oversight on the Infrastructure Improvements related to transportation and other public infrastructure.
- G. All expenditures will be subject to an annual independent financial audit to confirm that Bond expenditures are consistent with the intent of this Measure.

## EXHIBIT B

### TAX RATE STATEMENT

An election will be held in the City of Berkeley (the "City") on November 8, 2022, to authorize the sale of up to \$650 million in bonds of the City to finance the specific projects listed in the measure. If such bonds are authorized, the City expects to sell the bonds in one or more series. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable solely from the proceeds of ad valorem tax levies made upon the taxable property in the City. The following information is provided in compliance with Sections 9400-9404 of the California Elections Code. Such information is based upon the best estimates and projections presently available from official sources, upon experience within the City, and other demonstrable factors.

Based upon the foregoing and projections of the City's assessed valuation:

1. The best estimate of the average annual tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue over the entire duration of the bond debt service, based on a projection of assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement is 39 cents per \$100 (or \$39.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation of all property to be taxed. The best estimate of the final fiscal year in which the tax is anticipated to be collected is 2067/68.
2. The best estimate of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue, based on a projection of assessed valuations available at the time of filing this statement is 71 cents per \$100 (or \$71.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation of all property to be taxed. The best estimate of the first year in which the highest tax rate will apply is 2038/39.
3. The best estimate of the total debt service, including the principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the bonds are issued and sold is \$1,126,000,000.

Voters should note that such estimated tax rates are specific to the repayment of bonds issued under this authorization and will be in addition to tax rates levied in connection with other bond authorizations approved or to be approved by the City or any other overlapping public agency.

Voters should note that the estimated tax rate is based on the ASSESSED VALUE of taxable property on Alameda County's official tax rolls, not on the property's market value. In addition, taxpayers eligible for a property tax exemption, such as the homeowner's exemption, will be taxed at a lower effective tax rate than described above. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property's assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.



Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon projections and estimates only, which amounts are not maximum amounts or durations and are not binding upon the City. The actual debt service amounts, tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary from those presently estimated, due to variations from these estimates in the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold and market interest rates at the time of each sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds. The dates of sale and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the City based on need for funds and other factors. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on the bond market at the time of each sale. Actual future assessed valuation will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the City as determined by the Alameda County assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

Dated: July \_\_, 2022

/s/ DEE WILLIAMS-RIDLEY  
City Manager, City of Berkeley



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR  
August 3, 2022  
(Continued from July 26, 2022)

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Subject: Placing a General Obligation Bond Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot for Affordable Housing, Climate Change Resiliency, Wildfire Protection, and Other Public Infrastructure Improvements

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Adopt a Resolution determining public interest and necessity for issuing a general obligation bond in the amount of \$300 million for affordable housing, climate change resiliency, wildfire protection, and other public infrastructure improvements, submitting to the Berkeley electorate on the November 8, 2022 ballot a measure to authorize a general obligation bond in that amount, and finding that the proposed measure is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act.
- 2) Designate, by motion, specific members of the Council to file ballot measure arguments on this measure as provided for in Elections Code Section 9282.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No direct fiscal impacts related to the recommended action. Election services have seen a steep increase since 2018, with the City's first million-dollar election in 2020. It is uncertain at this time how recent state mandates and the pandemic will affect election costs in an ongoing basis. In addition, the number of measures placed on the ballot, and the length of the measures, are the primary driving factors in the fluctuation of election costs.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On April 27, 2021, City Council approved a referral to the City Manager to "explore various options for a future city bond measure in November 2022 to support the growing need for infrastructure investment, including street repaving, Complete Streets infrastructure that promotes bike and pedestrian safety, restoration of public buildings and facilities, and affordable housing citywide." On June 30, 2021, City Council adopted a budget that included Vision 2050 implementation and exploration of revenue measures for the November 2022 ballot. In partnership with dedicated Vision 2050 volunteers, staff completed meetings with 25+ City Commissions and community organizations; conducted a scientific survey on infrastructure priorities in October 2021;

updated City Council on progress on November 16, 2021; updated and gained City Council's direction at the January 20, 2022 work session; sent an informational brochure to all Berkeley residents inviting them to one of four large area public meetings; held those public meetings on March 30, April 6, April 13, and April 20; conducted this project's second scientific survey of Berkeley voters in late April; reported to City Council on the City's bond capacity on April 26, 2022; drafted a *Vision 2050 Program Plan* and incorporated public comments received between May 2 and May 12, 2022; submitted to City Council a Strategic Asset Management Plan and gained adoption of an Asset Management Policy on May 10, 2022; issued off agenda memos related to this project on October 4, 2021, December 13, 2021, March 28, 2022, and May 3, 2022; provided direction to staff at the May 31, 2022 City Council meeting; and had an in-depth discussion of the revenue measure at the June 21, 2022 City Council meeting.

At the June 21 meeting, City Council requested more details on the affordable housing component of the bond. While there are many variables to consider, staff estimate between 500-1,000 units can be produced with this level of investment. This range considers the City's experience creating new affordable housing units. For construction of new affordable housing units, the City has historically averaged loans between \$150,000-\$200,000 per unit over the past five years. For acquisition and rehabilitation (i.e., Small Sites), it has been approximately \$284,000 per unit, albeit from a sample of two projects.

Affordable housing units developed from bond funding would follow the City's Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Guidelines. The HTF Guidelines require eligible developers to designate at least 20% of new construction units for Extremely Low-Income households, which are 30% of area median income (AMI) and 40% to at least Low-Income Households (60% AMI). Projects leveraging tax credits (the most common funding source for affordable projects) must also average 60% AMI.

Historically, local new construction projects leverage additional subsidies to support Extremely-Low and Very-Low Income households, including Section 8 Project-Based Vouchers, Permanent Supportive Housing funding, and other population-specific subsidies for Transition-Aged Youth and people with disabilities. With dedicated local funding from sources such as the GO Bond, the City of Berkeley is at an advantage in competing for affordable housing funding.

While the Finance Department advises on a bond's specific disbursement schedule, staff anticipates that a bond approved in November could be allocated to support affordable housing at both the North Berkeley and Ashby BART given the current development timelines of between 10 to 15 years projected at both BART sites. The bond could also support other sites throughout the City over the course of the next ten years as the City's pipeline continues to grow.

Staff are confident there is sufficient demand for the bond. Measure O was completely allocated within three years of its adoption. In 2015, the City had eight projects in predevelopment or development. There are currently 20 projects in predevelopment or development at least in part due to Measure O.

Staff anticipates this bond will mirror the requirements of the Measure O Bond, which appropriated funding for the construction and acquisition of new construction affordable housing. The HTF Guidelines also establish standards for sustainability, accessibility, and labor in addition to the affordability requirements.

As to the question of affirmatively furthering fair housing and equitably locating projects in higher income and resource neighborhoods, it is often too difficult to control project locations as so much is reflective of the housing market. However, the scoring for competitive tax credit financing, the primary driver of new construction affordable projects, incentivizes development in high resourced areas. City Council may consider adopting a priority or tiebreaker for site locations according to such criteria. Staff also consider other factors in determining site locations including proximity to transit and other amenities including schools, community centers, and grocery stores.

As to the detail regarding the climate change resiliency, wildfire protection, and other public infrastructure improvements, staff updated the *Vision 2050 Program Plan* to include the detail provided by staff at the June 21 City Council meeting.

If this bond measure were placed on the ballot and approved by two-thirds of the voters, additional funds would be generated for affordable housing and climate change resiliency, wildfire protection, and other public infrastructure improvements. The average annual amount collected over the projected period the bonds are outstanding would be approximately \$130 for a home with the City's mean assessed valuation of \$647,972.

The measure permits the City to issue general obligation bonds to finance the acquisition and improvement of real property for affordable housing, including by the City directly, or indirectly through third parties, and to reimburse City funds for the prior acquisition and improvement of property to be used for affordable housing.

With respect to who can author arguments for measures placed on the ballot by the Council, Elections Code Section 9282(b) provides that the legislative body may submit an argument in favor of the measure. The City Council may authorize the Council as a whole, or certain members of the Council, to submit an argument in favor of the measure.

Staff recommends that the City Council make a finding that the proposed bond measure is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 et seq.) ("CEQA") or the related CEQA Guidelines (15 Cal. Code Regs. Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq.) ("CEQA Guidelines) because, as

contemplated by Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed bond measure involves the creation of a government funding mechanism and does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. The use of bond proceeds to finance any project or portion of any project will be subject to approval of the applicable decision-making body at that time, upon completion of planning and any further required environmental review under CEQA.

#### BACKGROUND

The City Manager is presenting this measure for addition to the November 8, 2022 ballot pursuant to the direction provided by the City Council at the May 31 and June 21, 2022 City Council meetings.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Implementing Vision 2050 would result in more resilient public infrastructure that creates fewer greenhouse gases, and reduces conflict between our built and natural environment. More affordable housing in Berkeley would reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by employees finding lower cost housing farther away from employment centers and requiring longer commutes.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City Clerk is presenting this action in accordance with the direction given by the City Council at the May 31 and June 21, 2022 meetings.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900

#### Attachments:

1: Resolution

Exhibit A: Text of Measure

Exhibit B: Tax Rate Statement

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

DETERMINING THAT PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY DEMAND THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OR IMPROVEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY, WILDFIRE PROTECTION, AND OTHER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES, AND SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE ON THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 BALLOT A MEASURE TO AUTHORIZE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR SUCH PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the accelerating impacts of climate change and growing need for affordable housing create new challenges for safety, resiliency, and sustainability within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified over \$1 billion in infrastructure needs, including to reduce the City's environmental footprint, adapt to climate change, reduce the risk of flooding and wildfires, and better withstand the consequences of flooding and fires when they do occur; make the City's public spaces more attractive, vibrant, and green; and otherwise improve the City's infrastructure and make it more sustainable and resilient; and

WHEREAS, the *Vision 2050 Framework* and *Program Plan* are long-term plans to build, upgrade and repair Berkeley's aging infrastructure to be more sustainable and resilient in order to meet the serious challenges of the future, including climate change, and, to these ends, the City Council has determined that affordable housing and infrastructure are connected; and

WHEREAS, a regional housing needs assessment showed the City needed an additional 3,854 affordable housing units, a crisis affecting unhoused, low-income and working families and individuals, including, but not limited to, teachers, seniors, veterans, the homeless, students, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the size and scale of local infrastructure need and affordable housing need show the challenge ahead despite the proactive steps taken to address these issues over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, existing funds and funding sources are inadequate for these infrastructure and affordable housing needs; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to issue general obligation bonds to finance municipal improvements pursuant to certain provisions of the California Government Code, including Article 1, commencing with Section 43600, of Chapter 4 of Division 4 of Title 4 or Article 4.5, commencing with Section 53506, of Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 (each, the "Bond Law"); and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to issue general obligation bonds for the acquisition or

improvement of affordable housing projects, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City intends to issue general obligation bonds (the “Bonds”) to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable housing (“Affordable Housing Improvements”), including the application of bond proceeds by the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations, and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts; and

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City further intends to issue the Bonds to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for public infrastructure and facilities (“Infrastructure Improvements”; together with Affordable Housing Improvements, “Improvements”), including the City’s storm drains; above or on ground utilities, especially those that can be undergrounded; green infrastructure; retaining walls; park, recreation, and senior facilities; parks, natural areas, waterfront, marina, and other open space; public buildings; and other public infrastructure, including repair, renovation, replacement, or reconstruction so that the public can continue to benefit from Infrastructure Improvements as they become more resilient and sustainable, and the Infrastructure Improvements will include any public art integrated into the Infrastructure Improvements consistent with Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 6.13; and

WHEREAS, the City may have the opportunity to leverage State and County of Alameda (“County”) funds allocated for these affordable housing and infrastructure needs if it issues the Bonds to address these needs; and

WHEREAS, fiscal accountability protections including public disclosure of all spending, annual audits and independent oversight help ensure funds will be spent as promised; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Bonds should be guided by the City’s adopted plans and policies, including the *Vision 2050 Framework* and *Program Plan*; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Bonds should be attentive to creating attractive, green spaces that invite walking and biking, and support community gathering; and

WHEREAS, by law, all funds must remain under local control in the City and cannot be taken away by the State or the County or used for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of ensuring adequate maintenance funding from existing sources for Infrastructure Improvements financed by

the Bonds and not supplanting existing City infrastructure funding with proceeds of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, United States Income Tax Regulations section 1.150-2 provides generally that proceeds of tax-exempt debt are not deemed to be expended when such proceeds are used for reimbursement of expenditures made prior to the date of issuance of such debt unless certain procedures are followed, one of which is a requirement that prior to the payment of any such expenditure, the issuer declares an intention to reimburse such expenditure; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest and for the public benefit that the City declares its official intent to reimburse certain of the proposed expenditures referenced herein; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be used to finance the Improvements, and all expenditures will be subject to annual independent financial audits and oversight by multiple City commissions; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to submit the measure described herein to be placed upon the ballot at the November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election, consistent with the Council's Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, calling for a General Municipal Election to be consolidated with said statewide election; and

WHEREAS, the Council's Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, adopted the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285(a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures, pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285(b).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berkeley that the public interest and necessity require the issuance of one or more series of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$300,000,000 to fund the Improvements, subject to completion of the proceedings required by the Bond Law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is adopted pursuant to and in conformance with Chapter 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

- A. A ballot measure authorizing the City to issue general obligation bonds to finance the acquisition and improvement of real property for the Improvements (the "Measure"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, shall be placed before the voters at the election on November 8, 2022.
- B. The estimated cost of the Affordable Housing Improvements to be funded by the Bonds is \$150,000,000, and the estimated cost for the Infrastructure Improvements to be funded by the Bonds is an additional \$150,000,000.



- C. The maximum rate of interest on the indebtedness shall not exceed twelve percent (12%) in accordance with Government Code Section 53531.
- D. The estimated cost of the Improvements may include legal and other fees, and the cost of printing the Bonds, and other costs and expenses incidental to or connected with the issuance and sale of the Bonds.
- E. Proceeds of the Bonds shall be used to finance the acquisition and construction of real property for the Improvements, and to pay any fees and costs in connection with issuance of the Bonds, including but not limited to, legal fees and bond printing costs.
- F. The Improvements will be completed as needed, and each is assumed to include its share of costs, including planning, program management and construction costs. The final cost of each Improvement will be determined as real property is purchased, plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded, or projects are completed. In addition, certain acquisition or improvement funds are expected from non-bond sources, including funds which have not yet been secured. Therefore, the City Council cannot guarantee that the Bonds will provide sufficient funds to allow completion of all needed Improvements.
- G. For the Affordable Housing Improvements, proceeds of the Bonds shall be used to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable housing, including the application of bond proceeds for the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts.
- H. As part of the process to adopt a budget, the City Manager shall provide to the City Council a comprehensive report of funds received from any Bonds authorized by this Measure.
- I. The following commissions or their successors shall provide oversight by reporting to the City Council on an annual basis regarding projects funded by the Bonds and the expenditure of proceeds of the Bonds, whether those expenditures are consistent with the purposes of the Bonds set forth in this Resolution, and recommendations on projects proposed to be funded by the Bonds and proposed expenditures of the proceeds of the Bonds:

1. The Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission shall provide oversight on Infrastructure Improvements related to properties and facilities identified in Municipal Code Section 3.26.040.A, including all parks, recreation, and waterfront improvements.
  2. The Transportation and Infrastructure Commission shall provide oversight on the Infrastructure Improvements related to transportation and other public infrastructure.
  3. The Housing Advisory Commission shall provide oversight on the Affordable Housing Improvements.
- J. All expenditures will be subject to an annual independent financial audit to confirm that expenditures of proceeds of the Bonds are consistent with the intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City hereby declares that it reasonably expects (i) to pay certain costs of the acquisition and improvement of real property for the Improvements prior to the date of execution, delivery or issuance of the Bonds, and (ii) to use a portion of the proceeds of the Bonds for reimbursement of such expenditures that are paid before the date of execution, delivery or issuance of the Bonds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to California Elections Code sections 10002 and 10403, this City Council does hereby call an election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, and requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors consolidate said election with the Statewide General Election on that same date in the manner and schedule established by Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, and submit to the qualified voters of the City, at said consolidated election, the Measure, such approval to constitute the authorization to issue the Bonds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City proposes to issue and sell general obligation bonds of the City, in one or more series, in the maximum amount and for the objects and purposes set forth above, payable from and secured by ad valorem taxes levied and collected in the manner prescribed by laws of the State of California, all equally and ratably secured, without priority, by the taxing power of the City, if two-thirds of all qualified voters voting on the Measure vote in favor thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Measure shall be placed on the ballot for the November 8, 2022 election with the statement of the Measure to be printed in the ballot in the following form:

<b>CITY OF BERKELEY GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND MEASURE</b>	
Shall the measure authorizing the City of Berkeley to issue \$300 million in general obligation bonds to fund affordable housing and improvements to public infrastructure, including utilities, parks, waterfront, marina, public buildings, and other improvements to increase sustainability and climate change resiliency, subject to oversight by City commissions and independent audits, be adopted?  Projected levy over expected 45-year period bonds are outstanding is approximately \$0.02 per \$100 of assessed value; raising approximately \$11,600,000 annually.	BONDS YES
	BONDS NO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at this time, the best estimate of the average and highest tax rates expected to be levied for debt service on the Bonds is set forth in the Tax Rate Statement attached hereto as Exhibit B.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the Measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley, and that ballots for the election shall be provided in the form and in the number provided by law. Voters shall be provided an opportunity to vote for or against the Measure on the ballot, in accordance with procedures to be adopted by the authorized officers of the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the Measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California, and to file a certified copy of this Resolution, including all exhibits, no later than the close of business on August 12, 2022, with the County Registrar of Voters and the Clerk of the County Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the

statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the Measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, the City Manager, the Finance Director, the City Attorney and the City Clerk, and any of their designees, are hereby authorized to execute any documents and to perform all acts necessary to place the Measure on the ballot, and to make any changes to the text of the Measure, the statement of the measure or the Tax Rate Statement to conform to any legal requirements of the County Registrar, in order to cause the election to be held and conducted in the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of the Measure to the City Attorney, who shall prepare an impartial analysis of the Measure showing the effect of the Measure on the existing law and the operation of the Measure. The impartial analysis shall be filed by the date set by the City Clerk for the filing of primary arguments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the filing of ballot arguments shall conform to the manner and schedule established by Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council, having reviewed the Measure, hereby finds that this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it involves the establishment of a government financing mechanism that does not involve any commitment to specific projects to be constructed with proceeds of the Bonds. The use of the proceeds of the Bonds to finance any project or portion of any project will be subject to approval of the applicable decision-making body at that time, upon completion of planning and any further required environmental review under CEQA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect from and after the date of its passage and adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption thereof.

Exhibits

A: Text of Measure

B: Tax Rate Statement

**EXHIBIT A**

**MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OR IMPROVEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY, WILDFIRE PROTECTION, AND OTHER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITIES**

**Section 1. Findings.**

WHEREAS, the accelerating impacts of climate change and growing need for affordable housing create new challenges for safety, resiliency, and sustainability within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified over \$1 billion in infrastructure needs, including to reduce the City's environmental footprint, adapt to climate change, reduce the risk of flooding and wildfires, and better withstand the consequences of flooding and fires when they do occur; make the City's public spaces more attractive, vibrant, and green; and otherwise improve the City's infrastructure and make it more sustainable and resilient; and

WHEREAS, the *Vision 2050 Framework* and *Program Plan* are long-term plans to build, upgrade and repair Berkeley's aging infrastructure to be more sustainable and resilient in order to meet the serious challenges of the future, including climate change, and, to these ends, the City Council has determined that affordable housing and infrastructure are connected; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of ensuring adequate maintenance funding from existing sources for infrastructure improvements financed by the bonds and not supplanting existing City infrastructure funding with proceeds of the bonds; and

WHEREAS, a regional housing needs assessment showed the City needed an additional 3,854 affordable housing units, a crisis affecting the unhoused, low-income and working families and individuals, including, but not limited to, teachers, seniors, veterans, the homeless, students, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the size and scale of local infrastructure need and affordable housing need show the challenge ahead despite the proactive steps taken to address these issues over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, existing funds and funding sources are inadequate for these infrastructure and affordable housing needs; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to issue general obligation bonds to finance municipal improvements pursuant to certain provisions of the California Government Code, including Article 1, commencing with Section 43600, of Chapter 4 of Division 4 of Title 4 or Article 4.5, commencing with Section 53506, of Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 (each, the “Bond Law”); and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to issue general obligation bonds for the acquisition or improvement of affordable housing projects, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City intends to issue general obligation bonds (the “Bonds”) to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable housing (“Affordable Housing Improvements”), including the application of bond proceeds by the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations, and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts;

WHEREAS, under the Bond Law and Chapter 7.64, the City further intends to issue the Bonds to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for public infrastructure and facilities (“Infrastructure Improvements”; together with Affordable Housing Improvements, “Improvements”), including the City’s storm drains; above or on ground utilities, especially those that can be undergrounded; green infrastructure; retaining walls; park, recreation, and senior facilities; parks, natural areas, waterfront, marina, and other open space; public buildings; and other public infrastructure, including repair, renovation, replacement, or reconstruction so that the public can continue to benefit from Infrastructure Improvements as they become more resilient and sustainable, and the Infrastructure Improvements will include any public art integrated into the Infrastructure Improvements consistent with Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 6.13; and

WHEREAS, the City may have the opportunity to leverage State and County of Alameda (“County”) funds allocated for these affordable housing and infrastructure needs if it issues the Bonds to address these needs; and

WHEREAS, fiscal accountability protections including public disclosure of all spending, annual audits and independent oversight help ensure funds will be spent as promised; and

WHEREAS, by law, all funds must remain under local control in the City and cannot be taken away by the State or the County or used for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted pursuant to and in conformance with Chapter 7.64 of the Berkeley Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has therefore determined that the public interest requires additional funding for the Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the People of the City of Berkeley find that the public interest requires the issuance of the Bonds in the amount of \$300,000,000 to fund the Improvements.

### **Section 2. Object and Purpose of Bonds.**

This measure (the “Measure”) authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds (the “Bonds”), the object and purpose of which is to finance, by the City of Berkeley or a third party, as applicable, the acquisition or improvement of real property for the Improvements.

The Improvements will be completed as needed, and each is assumed to include its share of costs, including planning, program management and construction costs. The final cost of each Improvement will be determined as real property is purchased, plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded, or projects are completed. In addition, certain acquisition or improvement funds are expected from non-bond sources, including funds which have not yet been secured. Therefore, the City Council cannot guarantee that the Bonds will provide sufficient funds to allow completion of all needed Improvements.

For the Affordable Housing Improvements, proceeds of the Bonds shall be used to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for affordable housing, including the application of bond proceeds for the City directly, or indirectly through third parties as loans, grants, or other disbursements to qualified individuals, not-for-profit entities acting alone or together with tax credit investors, not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations and government agencies, to acquire real property for the purpose of constructing, rehabilitating or preserving affordable housing, or to construct, rehabilitate or preserve affordable housing; including but not limited to supportive housing, nonprofit rental housing, and limited-equity housing cooperatives affiliated with community land trusts.

Proceeds of the Bonds may be used to reimburse the City for expenditures on the Improvements that are paid before the date of execution, delivery or issuance of the Bonds.

### **Section 3. Estimated Cost of Improvements.**

The estimated cost of the Affordable Housing Improvements to be funded by the Bonds is \$150,000,000, and the estimated cost for the Infrastructure Improvements to be funded by the Bonds is an additional \$150,000,000.

The estimated cost includes legal and other fees and the cost of printing the Bonds and other costs and expenses incidental to or connected with the authorization, issuance or sale of the Bonds. The cost of the Improvements include planning, programs management and construction costs.

**Section 4. Principal Amount of Bonds.**

The aggregate principal amount of Bonds to be issued shall not exceed \$300,000,000.

**Section 5. Maximum Interest Rate.**

The maximum rate of interest to be paid on the Bonds shall not exceed twelve percent (12%) per annum.

**Section 5. Accountability Requirements.**

The following accountability measures apply to the issuance of Bonds pursuant to this Measure:

- A. The specific purpose of the Bonds is to finance the acquisition or improvement of real property for the Improvements; and
- B. The proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be used only for the purposes specified in this Measure, and not for any other purpose; and
- C. The proceeds of the Bonds will be deposited into an account to be created and held by the City; and
- D. The proceeds from the sale of the Bonds may be used to reimburse the City for amounts advanced from the general fund or other funds or accounts to acquire real property for Improvements, when such purchases are made prior to the availability of Bond proceeds; and
- E. As part of the process to adopt a budget, the City Manager shall provide to the City Council a comprehensive annual report of funds received from any bonded indebtedness authorized by this Measure, funds expended, and the status of the Improvements.
- F. The following commissions or their successors shall provide oversight by reporting to the City Council on an annual basis regarding projects funded by the bond and bond expenditures, whether those bond expenditures are consistent with the purposes of the bond, and recommendations on projects proposed to be funded by the bond and bond expenditures:
  - 1. The Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission shall provide oversight on Infrastructure Improvements related to properties and facilities identified in Municipal Code Section 3.26.040.A, including all parks, recreation, and waterfront improvements.



2. The Transportation and Infrastructure Commission shall provide oversight on the Infrastructure Improvements related to transportation and other public infrastructure.
3. The Housing Advisory Commission shall provide oversight on the Affordable Housing Improvements.

G. All expenditures will be subject to an annual independent financial audit to confirm that Bond expenditures are consistent with the intent of this Measure.

**EXHIBIT B****TAX RATE STATEMENT**

An election will be held in the City of Berkeley (the “City”) on November 8, 2022, to authorize the sale of up to \$300 million in bonds of the City to finance the specific projects listed in the measure. If such bonds are authorized, the City expects to sell the bonds in one or more series. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable solely from the proceeds of ad valorem tax levies made upon the taxable property in the City. The following information is provided in compliance with Sections 9400-9404 of the California Elections Code. Such information is based upon the best estimates and projections presently available from official sources, upon experience within the City, and other demonstrable factors.

Based upon the foregoing and projections of the City’s assessed valuation:

1. The best estimate of the average annual tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue over the entire duration of the bond debt service, based on a projection of assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement is 2.00 cents per \$100 (or \$20.00 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation of all property to be taxed. The best estimate of the final fiscal year in which the tax is anticipated to be collected is 2067/68.
2. The best estimate of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue, based on a projection of assessed valuations available at the time of filing this statement is 3.68 cents per \$100 (or \$36.77 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation of all property to be taxed. The best estimate of the first year in which the highest tax rate will apply is 2038/39.
3. The best estimate of the total debt service, including the principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the bonds are issued and sold is \$520,000,000.

Voters should note that such estimated tax rates are specific to the repayment of bonds issued under this authorization and will be in addition to tax rates levied in connection with other bond authorizations approved or to be approved by the City or any other overlapping public agency.

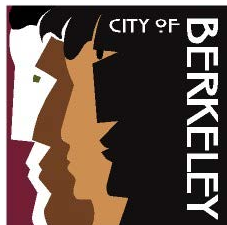
Voters should note that the estimated tax rate is based on the ASSESSED VALUE of taxable property on Alameda County’s official tax rolls, not on the property’s market value. In addition, taxpayers eligible for a property tax exemption, such as the homeowner’s exemption, will be taxed at a lower effective tax rate than described above. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property’s assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon projections and estimates only, which amounts are not maximum amounts or durations and are not binding upon the City. The actual debt service amounts, tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary from those presently estimated, due to variations from these estimates in the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold and market interest rates at the time of each sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds. The dates of sale and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the City based on need for funds and other factors. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on the bond market at the time of each sale. Actual future assessed valuation will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the City as determined by the Alameda County assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

Dated: July \_\_, 2022

/s/ DEE WILLIAMS-RIDLEY  
City Manager, City of Berkeley





Kate Harrison  
Vice Mayor, District 4

## REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL

**Meeting Date:** August 3, 2022

**Item Description:** Placing a General Tax Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot to Tax Vacant Residential Units

**Submitted by:** Vice Mayor Harrison

The revised version of the ballot measure ordinance includes clarifying amendments drafted in consultation with the City Attorney in the following sections:

- **7.54.020** – Simplifying and clarifying findings.
- **7.54.030 E. and L** – Adding a definition of Hotel that excludes short-term rentals and clarifying that short-term rentals are only excluded from the definition of Residential Unit;
- **7.54.030 F.** – Striking New Construction Period definition.
- **7.54.040 F.** – Striking the expiration clause.
- **7.54.040 H.** – Adding a suspension clause contingent on Council declaring an emergency and taking a two-thirds vote that the emergency has undermined the ability of owners to fill vacancies.
- **7.54.040 I.** – Adding a narrow amendment clause subject to a two-thirds vote and limited to correcting ambiguities and errors and in furtherance in the objectives of the measure.
- **7.54.050 A.-B.** – Clarifying that the City Manager’s designee may administer returns.
- **7.54.060 D.** – Limiting owner-occupied exemption to include one Single Family Dwelling, Condominium, or owner-occupied Duplex.
- **7.54.060 A.** – Clarifying that the exemption applies owner-occupied units owned by natural persons or family trusts owning four or fewer units who are *either* seniors or low income. In addition, clarified the owner use exemption.

- **7.54.080 A.** – Clarifying that the City Manager’s designee may enforce the ordinance.
- **7.54.090 A.** – Clarifying that the Council may use any of the proceeds to fund any general municipal services designated by the Council.
- **7.54.100** – Striking the extraneous technical assistance to the City Manager clause.



Kate Harrison  
Vice Mayor, District 4

**ACTION CALENDAR**  
**July 26 August 3, 2022**

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Vice Mayor Harrison, **Mayor Arreguín** and Councilmembers Robinson and Bartlett

Subject: Placing an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance on the November 8, 2022 Ballot

**RECOMMENDATION**

Submit an Ordinance to a vote of the electors at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election adding Chapter 7.54 to the Berkeley Municipal Code taxing property owners for keeping housing units vacant for more than 182 days in a single year, for units that 1) are not under permitted renovation or in probate, and 2) are in multi-unit buildings or are single family homes or condominiums whose owners are not natural persons or family trusts.

**CURRENT SITUATION AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The City of Berkeley is experiencing a historic housing crisis. Between 2005 and 2019 gross median rent increased by over 50%. This has been particularly burdensome in a city where 58% of residents are renters.<sup>1</sup> While in recent years Berkeley has met its RHNA goals for those earning above 120% Area Median Income (AMI), it has failed to build sufficient housing for everyone else. Further, housing at the >120% AMI category has not significantly improved affordability for lower income residents and has increased displacement in low-income neighborhoods.<sup>2</sup> The extraordinary gap between the housing needs of residents and the availability of housing can only be bridged through the use of numerous policy interventions, including a vacancy tax intended to incentivize owners of housing property to bring units back on the market and discourage speculation.

In a recent poll of top policy priorities among Berkeley voters, increasing affordable housing for low-income and homeless residents received by far the most support, at 58%.<sup>3</sup> While Berkeley is actively building new affordable units, siting and constructing

<sup>1</sup> Anti-Eviction Mapping Project: *Densifying Berkeley: Potential Impacts on Displacement and Equity*, 2022, <https://www.berkeleyside.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/AEMP-UpzoningReport-Draft4-3.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> City of Berkeley Community Survey, Live Phone and Text to Online, April 28-May 3, 2022, <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-05-31%20Item%2037%20Discussion%20and%20Direction%20Regarding.pdf>.

new units is a longer-term process, and it is incumbent on the City to maximize the availability of *existing units* that are already built and could be available for rent or sale.

Unfortunately, Alameda County's housing remains unaffordable for many of its residents, and this burden does not fall evenly across income and racial groups. While 47% of renters in Alameda County are rent burdened, the rate is 58% for Black renters and 87% for extremely low-income renters.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, as this crisis continues to unfold, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board data indicates that 1,128 fully or partially regulated<sup>5</sup> units have been classified by their owners as not available to rent (NAR).<sup>6</sup> Around 40% of the 1,128 NAR units are in properties that are completely vacant, and almost 80% of NAR units are in properties that are half or more empty. A few of these are actively being renovated but the majority are not. Many have not been occupied for some time or actually are rented but not reported as being so to the Rent Board. Based on a review of Rent Board data and Google Street View, approximately 100 of these units are in buildings that are entirely vacant and dilapidated. This contributes to neighborhood blight and requires costly vector control and fire inspections. Thus, much of the vacancies in the city are not due to natural turnover.

A recent report examining vacancies in San Francisco found that there is no single force driving the vacancies<sup>7</sup>. It also found that vacancies were disproportionately in multi-family apartment complexes and tended to be in areas with older housing stock and higher rates of new construction— suggesting that property owners are holding older units vacant to capitalize on new construction. Notably, in interviews with numerous landlords, the report found that landlords contradictorily listed rent control as a reason for both low and high vacancy rates<sup>8</sup>. In other words, landlords themselves did not agree there is a clear connection between rent control and vacancy rates.

Oakland and Vancouver, both experiencing their own challenges with housing unaffordability, use a vacant housing tax to encourage owners of vacant units to find tenants or sell to those who will. In 2016, Vancouver passed a measure that placed a surcharge on the assessed value of vacant units. Within two years of its implementation, 21.2% of vacant units returned to occupancy and the city generated

<sup>4</sup> California Housing Partnership Housing Needs Dashboard, 2019,

<https://chpc.net/housingneeds/?view=37.405074,-119.26758,5&county=California,Alameda&group=housingneed&chart=shortfall|current,cost-burden|current,cost-burden-re|current,homelessness,historical-rents,vacancy,asking-rents|2022,budgets|2021,funding|current,state-funding,lihtc|2010:2021:historical,rhna-progress,multifamily-production>

<sup>5</sup> Partially regulated units are only partially covered by the rent ordinance, while fully regulated are completely covered by the ordinance

<sup>6</sup> Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board. There are also units classified as “vacant”, for which property owners are actively seeking tenants.

<sup>7</sup> Paige Dow, Unpacking the Growth in San Francisco's Vacant Housing Stock, 2018,

[https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CR\\_Final\\_2.3.19-1.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1a\\_6T8DJR-p6qZ05u-oeIplpBzfeTabdxNeG\\_-l39vQ-vNIBwe6FT7D8A&fs=e&s=cl](https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CR_Final_2.3.19-1.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1a_6T8DJR-p6qZ05u-oeIplpBzfeTabdxNeG_-l39vQ-vNIBwe6FT7D8A&fs=e&s=cl)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.



\$46 million Canadian dollars. Oakland enacted a vacant property tax of \$3,000 to \$6,000, varying based on property type. In its first year of implementation, the city collected over \$7 million in revenue.<sup>9</sup> San Francisco voters will consider a vacant housing tax measure on the November ballot.

Addressing vacant units is a critical part of addressing Berkeley's housing crisis. Every year that a significant percentage of Berkeley's housing stock remains vacant exacerbates the housing affordability and displacement crises. This item includes a modified version of San Francisco's proposed tax adapted to Berkeley. It is in the public interest to refer to the City Attorney and City Manager to prepare and submit a resolution taxing empty homes that would be submitted to a vote of the electors at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election.

### BACKGROUND

Berkeley's housing challenges are significant, requiring numerous policy interventions across many years to remediate. However, of the units that were built as part of the 2023 RHNA goals, the majority have been unaffordable to most residents.<sup>10</sup>

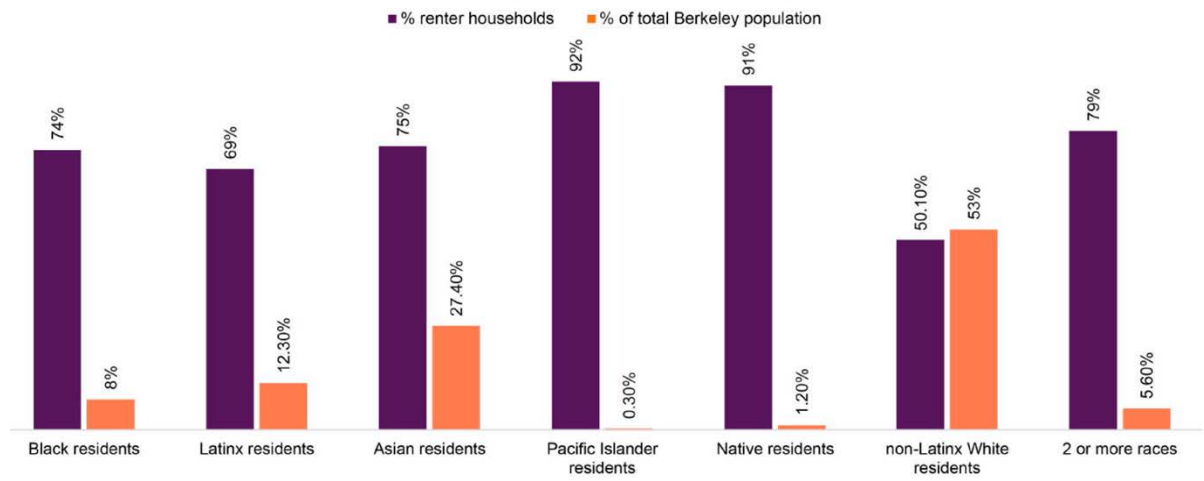
Income Category	Total RHNA (2014- 2023)	Net Units Created (2015- 2020)	Balance Remaining	Percent of RHNA Achieved
Very Low Income	532	173	359	32.5%
Low Income	442	60	382	13.6%
Moderate Income	584	0	584	0%
Above Moderate Income	1,401	2,476	0	176.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,959</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>55.2%</b>

In 2019 the City's median rent was \$3,165, making it affordable to only households earning over \$130k annually. Median rents have also increased by greater than 50% between 2005 and 2019. Rising rents in the city are of particular concern given that the City has a high renter population, and the impact of high rents falls disproportionately on BIPOC residents<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> San Francisco Budget and Legislative Analyst's Office: Residential Vacancies in San Francisco, 2022, [https://56a418ca-94d2-476c-9a45-f491ca4a0387.usrfiles.com/ugd/56a418\\_74b82803e4fb434bb1b13010828a4c01.pdf](https://56a418ca-94d2-476c-9a45-f491ca4a0387.usrfiles.com/ugd/56a418_74b82803e4fb434bb1b13010828a4c01.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> 2020 General Plan APR: City of Berkeley, Table 2

<sup>11</sup> Anti-Eviction Mapping Project: *Densifying Berkeley: Potential Impacts on Displacement and Equity*, 2022, <https://www.berkeleyside.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/AEMP-UpzoningReport-Draft4-3.pdf>

**Percent Renter Occupancy vs. Percent Berkeley Population, 2019<sup>12</sup>**

Fortunately, the City of Berkeley has taken numerous steps in recent years to tackle its affordable housing crisis, including issuing a \$100 million affordable housing bond, permitting Berkeley residents (outside of the fire zones) to receive near-automatic approval to build certain types of ADUs, and rezoning BART stations to allow significant affordable housing. A potential 2022 affordable housing bond is under consideration.

While these efforts will increase the supply of housing in Berkeley, it will take years for the City to reap the benefits. Developments still need to be proposed, approved, and then constructed. Berkeley's large supply of vacant homes presents a unique opportunity for the City to immediately provide new units to renters, as there are no approval processes or lengthy construction timelines.

Additionally, hot housing markets often attract real estate speculation. Redfin data shows that 13% of homes in Oakland were purchased by an institutional investor or business in the fourth quarter of 2021, a 16.9% increase over the year before. In San Francisco, 18% were acquired by institutional investors. This follows a concerning nation-wide trend where large institutional investors have since the beginning of the pandemic purchased an enormous number of homes; over 75% of these offers are in all cash,<sup>13</sup> and many without any inspections, pricing prospective homeowners out of the real estate market. Large financial institutions, like Blackrock, are now some of the largest owners of real estate in the country. However, unlike traditional homeowners, they treat homes as a commodity to build wealth. This is made clear by private equity-backed landlords being 18% more likely than non-equity backed corporate landlords to evict tenants, who are themselves more likely to do so than small landlords. In a

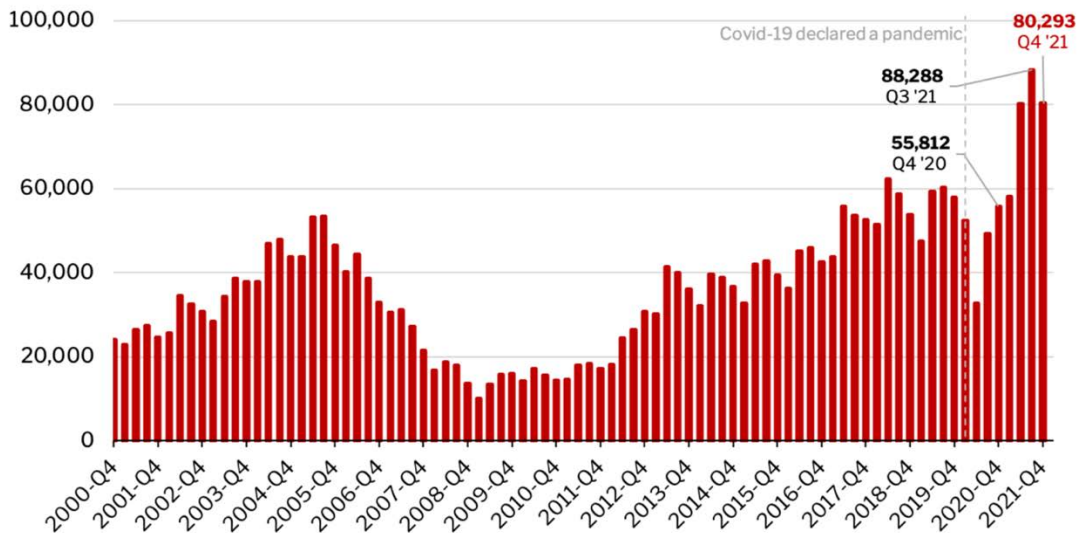
<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Route Fifty: Governments Begin Pushing Back on Investors Snatching Up Homes, 2022, <https://www.route-fifty.com/infrastructure/2022/07/while-investors-are-snatching-homes-governments-fight-save-properties-residents/368927/>

particularly acute instance of the commoditization of housing, one company packaged rental *debt* from 3,000 homes and sold it to investors for \$500 million,<sup>14</sup> similar to what happens with mortgage debt.

### Investors Home Purchases Just Shy of Record in Fourth Quarter of 2021

Number of U.S. homes bought by investors



Source: Redfin analysis of county records

**REDFIN**

In Berkeley, it is likely that some vacant units are in buildings purchased for the sole purpose of accruing more wealth, with no intention of housing tenants. For instance, there is one property owner who owns 9 units, across 4 properties of two or fewer units in the city—of these, 8 are listed as not available to rent. While the extent of this is unknown, applying a tax on vacant homes will discourage this practice that, in aggregate, raises rents and home prices for everyone else. The proposed Measure fulfills one of the key anti-speculation recommendations of the 2022 report by the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project (*Densifying Berkeley: Potential Impacts on Displacement and Equity*).

Using the assumptions made in the San Francisco Budget Analyst report on a prospective vacancy tax, and Berkeley Rent Board data on length of vacancies, Utilizing data from the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board concerning units not available to rent and considering the exemptions described here, it is estimated that Berkeley will generate between \$5.48 million and \$8.17 million in revenue annually and that several

<sup>14</sup> Tech Equity Collaborative: Sold to the Highest Bidder: How Tech is Cashing in on the American Dream, 2022, <https://techequitycollaborative.org/2022/06/29/sold-to-the-highest-bidder-how-tech-is-cashing-in-on-the-american-dream/>

Placing an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance on the November 8, 2022 Ballot	ACTION CALENDAR July 26 August 3, 2022
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hundred vacant units could become occupied within two years.<sup>15</sup> This is likely a conservative estimate as it only includes units that have been registered as NAR with the Berkeley Rent Board—other vacant units are not included. The Finance Department has confirmed that the methodology behind these numbers is valid and logical and will affirm them for the ballot statement.

POTENTIAL REVENUES FROM BERKELEY VACANCY TAX						
Applicable Units	Small Properties*		Large Properties		TOTAL	
	Year 1	Two + Years**	Year 1	Two + Years**	Year 1	Two + Years**
Years since implementation	249	187	841	631	1090	818
Units Subject to Tax						
Revenue	\$747,000	\$1,120,500	\$5,046,000	\$7,569,000	\$5,793,000	\$8,689,500

\*Excluding 38 single family homes owned by non-corporate owners of less than 3 single-family homes  
 \*\*Assumes 75% of buildings remain vacant after one year  
 Small properties have 1 - 2 units  
 Large properties have more than 2 units

POTENTIAL REVENUES FROM BERKELEY VACANCY TAX						
Applicable Units	Small Properties*		Large Properties		TOTAL	
	Year 1	Two + Years**	Year 1	Two + Years**	Year 1	Two + Years**
Years since implementation	119	89	841	631	960	720
Units Subject to Tax						
Revenue	\$357,000	\$535,500	\$5,046,000	\$7,569,000	\$5,403,000	\$8,104,500

\*Excluding 38 single family homes owned by non-corporate owners of 1 single-family home and 130 owner-occupied duplexes  
 \*\*Assumes 75% of buildings remain vacant after one year  
 Small properties have 1 - 2 units

Berkeley’s proposed vacancy tax is built off San Francisco’s 2022 proposed Empty Home Tax proposal. The San Francisco vacancy tax applies only to owners of properties with three or more units when at least one has been unoccupied for more than 182 days in a year. Single family homes and two-unit properties are exempt, and the vacancy tax increases for larger properties and units that have been empty for longer. The proposed vacancy tax for Berkeley would likewise be imposed when a unit is left vacant for more than 182 days in a calendar year, providing time extensions for units under active reconstruction or in probate. It will also contain the following exemptions:

- Owners of up to two single family homes and/or condominiums in Berkeley so long as they are owned by natural persons or family trusts. Single family homes and/or condominiums owned by corporations, real estate trusts, and LLCs would not be exempt. Additionally, single Single family homes with an ADU or JADU will be classified as “one unit”;
- Duplexes where one unit is owner occupied so long as they are owned by natural persons or family trusts.
- A property of four or fewer units, inclusive of ADUs and JADUs, whose owner is a natural person or family trust and is over 65 or, makes under 80% of the Area Median Income, and resides in the property;

<sup>15</sup> These estimates are calculated using Berkeley Rent Board data

- ~~T~~-triplexes, and quadplexes where one unit is owner occupied and the owner indicates that another unit is not available to rent due to owner or family use for no compensation;
- Organizations that are exempt from paying property taxes in California, such as non-profit organizations and religious institutions;
- The Empty Homes Tax will be suspended if an eviction moratorium is in place in Berkeley.

The exemption for very low-income owners over the age of 65 has not been included in these estimates as only around 100 of all 30,000 Berkeley residences use this exemption for City parcel taxes. The Berkeley Department of Finance found that, given the low number of property owners who would qualify for and use this exemption, revenues will not be materially impacted.

The tax rate would vary between \$3,000 and \$6,000 depending on the type of unit. Non-exempt condos, duplexes, townhomes and single-family homes would pay \$3,000 per year. Remaining units would pay \$6,000 annually. Both tiers of fees double, to \$6,000 and \$12,000 annually, respectively, for units vacant for more than two years.

The tax would go into effect on January 1, 2024, and a home will only be considered vacant if it remains vacant for at least 182 days of the year. As such, the vacancy tax provides time for property owners to return units to occupancy or inform the city that a property is exempt before any tax comes into effect.

The vacancy tax in Berkeley would have numerous benefits. It will almost immediately increase the City's housing stock while complimenting more time-consuming approval and construction processes. Further, the tax has the potential to bring hundreds of units online within a year and generate millions in ~~affordable housing~~ revenue as a byproduct. A vacancy tax will also disincentivize property owners from engaging in real estate speculation, which will help limit rent and housing price increases across the City. Finally, units that are occupied will be brought in line with the city's housing regulations.

The City has much data related to properties that assist in applying the vacancy tax. Measure MM requires owners to register partially covered units and Measure U1 taxes owners of more than four units. In addition, Berkeley's long-standing rent registration for fully covered units has provided the city with extensive data on the housing stock in the City.

The draft Measure is currently drafted as a general tax. If passed, funds would be placed into the general fund with the non-binding intention of putting ~~all~~ revenue into the Housing Trust Fund or for other municipal purposes at the discretion of the Council. The Housing Trust Fund supports the following activities:

- Construction of new affordable housing, including by providing pre-development to non-profit affordable housing developers, for households with an income of 80% or less of Area Median Income;
- The acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-unit buildings for affordable housing, and the operation of such buildings acquired and/or rehabilitated for households with an income of 80% or less of Area Median Income;
- The administration of the Empty Homes Tax and administration of the Housing Trust Fund.

### ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

~~The authors considered expanding the existing owner-occupied low-income senior exemption for properties of four or fewer units to all seniors regardless of income. This alternative would respond to the fact that certain seniors may have purchased property decades ago and may no longer be able rent units in the property. The City does not have specific data for properties of owner-occupied four or fewer units that are owned by seniors. However, according to census data, there are around 19,000 seniors in the city. Using the Rent Board's NAR data, it is reasonable to expect such an exemption would impact far fewer than 74 NAR units in buildings of four or fewer units estimated to be owned and occupied by seniors.~~

~~The authors did not include this alternative because there is already a similar exemption in Section 7.54.030 M. providing owners exemption for a unit that is kept vacant for use by owner or a family member for no compensation.~~

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Existing buildings embody carbon. Maximizing utilization of existing units is a prudent use of embodied carbon.

### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time will be necessary for a legal review and to prepare a Council item placing the ordinance on the ballot. However, significant savings are anticipated as the ordinance and resolution are already drafted and included as part of this referral.

### CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kate Harrison, Council District 4, 510-981-7140

### Attachments:

- 1: Draft Resolution  
Exhibit A: Draft Text of Measure

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE AN ORDINANCE ADDING  
CHAPTER 7.54 TO THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO IMPOSE AN EXCISE  
TAX ON KEEPING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VACANT TO FUND GENERAL  
MUNICIPAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council has elected to submit to the voters at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election, a measure adding Chapter 7.54 to the Berkeley Municipal Code imposing an “Empty Homes Tax” on property owners who keep residential properties vacant, to fund general municipal services; and

WHEREAS, residential vacancies are an ongoing concern in Berkeley. According to the 2020 Decennial Census, 9% of Berkeley’s housing units, or a total of 4,725 units, sat vacant at the time of the Census; and

WHEREAS, of total vacancies, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board data from 2022 indicates that 1,128 fully or partially regulated units in buildings with more than two units have been classified by their owners as not available to rent. Returning these units to the housing market is a key strategy for ensuring long-term affordability; and

WHEREAS, prolonged vacancy restricts the supply of available housing units and runs counter to the City’s housing objectives. Prolonged vacancies can also decrease economic activity in neighborhoods and lead to blight; and

WHEREAS, the housing affordability crisis has created an urgent need to pay for additional services and programs including, but not limited to, construction of new affordable housing for households with a household income of 80% or less of Area Median Income, including by providing pre-development funding to non-profit affordable housing developers, and the acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-unit buildings for affordable housing, and the operation of such buildings acquired and/or rehabilitated; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley is also working to ensure all public funds available to build affordable housing are being maximized, from the City, Alameda County, State and Federal governments; and

WHEREAS, even with the addition of City, County, State, and Federal resources, Berkeley is unable to house all of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the increased costs of meeting the challenges of the housing crisis have impacted Berkeley’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the City needs new funds to pay for municipal services. The Empty Homes Tax is intended to disincentivize prolonged vacancies, thereby increasing the number of



housing units available for occupancy, while also raising funds for municipal services, including but not limited to constructing, acquiring, and rehabilitating affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to submit this measure to be placed upon the ballot at the November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election, consistent with the Council's Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, calling for a General Municipal Election to be consolidated with said statewide election; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that this resolution is hereby adopted and a ballot measure adding Chapter 7.54 to the Berkeley Municipal Code imposing an "Empty Homes Tax" on property owners who keep residential properties vacant, to fund general municipal services, shall be placed before the voters at the election on November 8, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to California Elections Code sections 10002 and 10403, this City Council does hereby call an election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, and requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors consolidate said election with the Statewide General Election on that same date in the manner and schedule established by Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, and submit the Measure to the qualified voters of the City at said consolidated election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council acknowledges that the consolidated election will be held and conducted in the manner prescribed in Elections Code Section 10418.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above enumerated measure requires a majority vote threshold for passage.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285 (b), the City Council hereby adopts the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285 (a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Ordinance measure shall appear and be printed upon the ballots to be used at said election as follows:

<b>CITY OF BERKELEY ORDINANCE</b>	
Shall the measure to tax property owners who keep residential units vacant more than 182 days per year, \$3,000 for each <u>non-exempt</u> condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse vacant in the first year, increasing to \$6,000 for each subsequent year, and \$6,000 for all other residential units vacant in the first year, increasing to \$12,000 for each subsequent year, with exceptions, <u>from beginning</u> January 1, 2024 <u>to December 31, 2034</u> , estimated to generate between \$5, <u>48</u> 00,000 and \$8, <u>17</u> 00,000 annually, be adopted?	YES
	NO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the text of the Ordinance be shown as Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

- Exhibits
- A: Text of Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. #,###-N.S.

ADDING CHAPTER 7.54 TO THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO IMPOSE AN  
EXCISE TAX ON KEEPING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VACANT TO FUND GENERAL  
MUNICIPAL SERVICES

BE IT ORDAINED by the people of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 7.54 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

**Chapter 7.54**

**Empty Homes Tax**

**Sections:**

**7.54.010 Short Title.**

**7.54.020 Findings and Purpose.**

**7.54.030 Definitions.**

**7.54.040 Imposition of Tax.**

**7.54.050 Returns; Presumption of Vacancy.**

**7.54.060 Exemptions ~~and Exclusions.~~**

**7.54.070 Waiver.**

**~~7.54.070-080 Administration; Penalties.~~**

**~~7.54.080-090 Housing Trust Fund; Deposit of Proceeds~~Use of Funds for General  
Municipal Purposes.**

**~~7.54.090-100 Technical Assistance to the City Manager; Annual Reports.~~**

**~~7.54.100-110 Authorization and Limitation on Issuance of Bonds.~~**

**~~7.54.110-120 Severability.~~**

**~~7.54.120-130 Savings Clause.~~**

**~~7.54.130-140 Liberal Construction.~~**

**7.54.010 Short Title.**

This Chapter shall be known as the “Empty Homes Tax Ordinance,” and the tax it imposes shall be known as the “Empty Homes Tax.”

**7.54.020 Findings and purpose.**

The People of the City of Berkeley find and declare as follows:

A. Residential vacancies are an ongoing concern in Berkeley. ~~According to the 2020 Decennial Census, 9% of Berkeley’s housing units, or a total of 4,725 units, sat vacant at the time of the Census.~~

B. Of total vacancies, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board data from 2022 indicates that 1,128 fully or partially regulated units in buildings with more than two units have been classified by their owners as not available to rent. Returning these and other vacant units to the housing market is a key strategy for ensuring long-term affordability.

C. Prolonged vacancy restricts the supply of available housing units, is often the result of housing speculation and runs counter to the City's housing objectives. Prolonged vacancies can also decrease economic activity in neighborhoods and lead to blight.

D. The housing affordability crisis has created an urgent need to pay for additional services and programs including, but not limited to, construction of new affordable housing for households with a household income of 80% or less of Area Median Income, including by providing pre-development funding to non-profit affordable housing developers, and the acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-unit buildings for affordable housing, and the operation of such buildings acquired and/or rehabilitated.

E. Berkeley-The City is also working to ensure all public funds available to build affordable housing are being maximized, from the City, Alameda County, State and Federal governments.

F. Even with the addition of City, County, State, and Federal resources, Berkeley the City is unable to house all of its residents.

G. The increased costs of meeting the challenges of the housing crisis have impacted Berkeley's-the City's General Fund.

H. The City needs new funds to pay for municipal services. The Empty Homes Tax is intended to disincentivize prolonged vacancies and housing speculation, thereby increasing the number of housing units available for occupancy, while also raising funds for municipal services, including but not limited to constructing, acquiring, and rehabilitating affordable housing.

#### **7.54.030 Definitions.**

Unless otherwise defined in this Chapter, the terms used in this Chapter shall have the meanings given to them in Chapters 2.44 and 9.04, of the Municipal Code, as amended from time to time. For purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

A. "Affiliate" means an entity under common majority ownership or common control, whether that ownership or control is direct or indirect, with any other person or entity, including but not limited to a person or entity that majority owns or controls, or is majority owned or controlled by, any other person or entity.

B. "Building Permit Application Period" means the period following the date that an application for a building permit for repair, rehabilitation, or construction with respect to a Residential Unit is filed with the City through the date the Planning Department or its successor agency grants or denies that application, not to exceed one year.

Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if more than one building permit application is filed by or on behalf of one or more persons in the Owner's Group for the same Residential Unit, the Building Permit Application Period shall mean only the applicable period following the date the first application is filed with the City by or on behalf of anyone in the Owner's Group. In the case of an owner qualifying for the Disaster Period in subsection D, the Building Permit Application Period may be extended beyond one year if the owner makes a good faith effort, as determined by the building official, to obtain a building permit.

C. "Disaster Period" means the two-year period following the date that a Residential Unit was made uninhabitable or unusable due to fire, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event, except where a negligent, reckless or willful act or omission by the owner or agent of the owner contributed to or caused the Residential Unit to become uninhabitable or unusable due to fire, natural disaster or other catastrophic event.

D. "Homeowners' Exemption Period" means the period during which a Residential Unit is the principal place of residence of any owner of that Residential Unit and for which such owner validly has claimed either the homeowners' property tax exemption under Section 218 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or the disabled veterans' exemption under Section 205.5 of that Code, as those sections may be amended from time to time.

~~D-E. "Hotel" means any property registered under Section 7.36.060 of the Municipal Code and excludes any properties regulated under Chapter 23.314 of the Municipal Code.~~

~~E-F. "Lease Period" means the period during which any owner of a Residential Unit or any person in the Owner's Group of that owner leases that Residential Unit to one or more tenants under a bona fide lease intended for occupancy, but not including any lease or rental of that Residential Unit to anyone in the Owner's Group or to travelers, vacationers, or other transient occupants.~~

~~F. "New Construction Period" means the one-year period following the date that the City issues a certificate of final completion and occupancy with respect to a Residential Unit in a newly erected building or a newly added Residential Unit in an existing building.~~

G. "Owner Death Period" means, with respect to a co-owner or decedent's estate, heirs, or beneficiaries, the period during which a Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused because of the death of any owner of a Residential Unit who was the sole occupant of that Residential Unit immediately prior to such owner's death, provided that such period shall not exceed the longer of two years or the period during which the Residential Unit is subject to the authority of a probate court.

H. "Owner In Care Period" means the period during which a Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused because the occupant of the Residential Unit who used that Residential Unit as their principal residence is residing in a hospital, long term or supportive care facility, medical care or treatment facility, or other similar facility.

I. "Owner's Group" means for each owner of a Residential Unit, with respect to each Residential Unit, the owner, any current or former co-owner, and any Related Person or Affiliate of the owner or any current or former co-owner.

J. "Rehabilitation Period" means the two-year period following the date that the City issues a building permit for repair, or rehabilitation, with respect to a Residential Unit, provided that if the City issues multiple building permits to or for the benefit of one or more persons in the Owner's Group for the same Residential Unit, the Rehabilitation Period shall mean only the two-year period following the issuance of the first building permit to or for the benefit of anyone in the Owner's Group.

K. "Related Person" means a spouse, domestic partner, child, parent, or sibling.

L. "Residential Unit" means a house, an apartment, a group of rooms, or a single room that is designed as separate living quarters ~~than units occupied or intended for occupancy primarily by travelers, vacationers, or other transient occupants only so long as and to the extent permitted by Chapter 23.314 of the Municipal Code.~~ Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have a kitchen and direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. For purposes of this Chapter, a Residential Unit shall not include a unit in a Hotel, a currently operational nursing home, residential care facility, or other similar facility, or any unit that is fully exempt from property tax under the welfare exemption under Section 214(g) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code, as may be amended from time to time.

M. "Vacancy Exclusion Period" means the Building Permit Application Period, Rehabilitation Period, Disaster Period, Homeowners' Exemption Period, Lease Period, ~~New Construction Period~~, Owner Death Period, or Owner In Care Period, ~~or where the owner of an owner-occupied Residential Unit is temporarily absent from their unit and the unit is continuously designated as their principal residence, or where the owner of an owner-occupied duplex, triplex, or quadplex has affirmatively indicated through filings with the Rent Board that a single other unit in the duplex, triplex, or quadplex is being used by the owner or a family member for no consideration.~~

N. "Vacant" means unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused, for more than 182 days, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive, in a calendar year.

#### **7.54.040 Imposition of Tax.**

A. Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, the City imposes an annual Empty Homes Tax on each person that owns a Residential Unit for keeping that Residential Unit Vacant for more than 182 days, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive, in a calendar year except for those periods defined as a Vacancy Exclusion Period.

B. The Empty Homes Tax on an owner keeping a Residential Unit Vacant shall be as follows:

1. For the first calendar year that the Residential Unit is Vacant, the tax shall be \$3,000 per Residential Unit in a vacant condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse unit under separate residential unit ownership and \$6,000 per any other vacant Residential Unit.
2. For the second consecutive calendar year and each subsequent calendar year thereafter that the Residential Unit is Vacant, the tax shall be \$6,000 per Residential Unit in a vacant condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse unit under separate residential unit ownership and \$12,000 per any other vacant Residential Unit.

C. The rates set forth in subsection B. of this Section shall be adjusted annually in accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index: All Urban Consumers for the San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose Area for All Items as reported by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or any successor to that index, as of December 31st of the preceding year, beginning with the 2025 calendar year.

D. The Empty Homes Tax shall be payable by the owner or owners of the Residential Unit kept Vacant. Not more than one tax per Residential Unit shall be imposed under this Section for a calendar year by reason of multiple liable owners. If there are multiple liable owners, each owner shall be jointly and severally liable for the tax, which shall be the highest amount of tax payable by any owner for that Residential Unit for that calendar year.

~~E. A person shall be liable for the Empty Homes Tax only if that person, while owning a Residential Unit, has kept or is deemed to have kept that Residential Unit unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused, for more than 182 days, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive, in a calendar year.~~ In determining whether an owner has kept a Residential Unit Vacant during a calendar year, days within any Vacancy Exclusion Period shall be disregarded if that Vacancy Exclusion Period applies to that owner for that Residential Unit, as shall days in which the Residential Unit was not owned by the owner, but the owner shall be deemed to have kept the Residential Unit unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused on all other days that such Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused during the calendar year.

F. The Empty Homes Tax shall take effect on January 1, 2024. ~~The Empty Homes Tax shall expire on December 31, 2034, unless reauthorized by the voters prior to such date.~~

G. The Empty Homes Tax shall be suspended for as long as the Berkeley COVID-19 Residential Eviction Moratorium is in effect pursuant to BMC 13.110 and the tax shall resume upon expiration.

~~H. -Upon declaring a citywide emergency, the Council may suspend the tax in whole or part by a supermajority vote of two-thirds of the entire City Council upon a findings that a declared emergency has undermined the ability of owners to fill vacancies in their Residential Units. Such a suspension shall last for no more than 60 days from its enactment by the Council, but may be extended on or before its expiration by a two-thirds supermajority vote of the Council so long as the emergency continues and the required findings can be made. The Empty Homes Tax shall resume upon the expiration of the emergency.~~

~~I. The Council may, by a supermajority vote of two-thirds of the entire City Council, amend this Chapter in furtherance of its purposes or to correct ambiguities or errors in language that do not alter the dollar amounts of the tax as provided in Section 7.54.040 B, or expand the applicability of the exemptions or waivers in Sections 7.54.060 and 7.54.070, or amend subsection H. or this subsection I. of Section 7.54.040.~~

#### **7.54.050 Returns; Presumption of Vacancy.**

A. Each person that is required to pay the Empty Homes Tax shall file a return in the form and manner prescribed by the City Manager or their designee.

B. Each person that owns a Residential Unit at any time during a calendar year and that is not exempt from the Empty Homes Tax with respect to that Residential Unit under any one of subsections A. through E. of Section 7.54.060 shall file a return for that calendar year in the form and manner prescribed by the City Manager or their designee. A person that fails to file the return required by this subsection B. for a Residential Unit shall be presumed to have kept that Residential Unit Vacant for the calendar year for which such



return is required. The person who fails to file the required return may rebut the presumption by producing satisfactory evidence that such person did not keep the Residential Unit Vacant during the calendar year for which the return is required.

#### **7.54.060 Exemptions ~~and Exclusions.~~**

A. For only so long as and to the extent that the City is prohibited by the Constitution or laws of the State of California or the Constitution or laws of the United States from imposing the Empty Homes Tax on any person that person shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax.

B. Any organization that is exempt from income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax.

C. The City, the State of California, and any county, municipal corporation, district, or other political subdivision of the State shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax, except where any constitutional or statutory immunity from taxation is waived or is not applicable.

D. A natural person or family trust that is the owner of no more than ~~two~~ one Single Family Dwelling, ~~s or~~ condominiums, or owner-occupied Duplex and no other Residential Units in the City shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax. For purposes of this subsection D. only, "Single Family Dwelling" ~~shall only include~~ is inclusive of single family home properties with up to a single accessory dwelling unit and a junior accessory dwelling unit. Additionally, for the purposes of this subsection D. and Section 7.54.070 only, the "owner" of such Rental Property shall not be any of the following set forth under California Civil Code Section 1947.12(d)(5)(A)(i)-(iii) ("AB 1482"): a real estate investment trust, as defined in Section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code; a corporation; or a limited liability company.

~~E. The tax imposed by this Chapter shall not apply to a property of four or fewer units which is owner-occupied and whose owner (1) is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and (2) whose combined family income, from all sources for the previous year, is at or below the income level qualifying as eighty percent (80%) of area median income for a Family of such size under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.A. Sections 1437 et. seq.), or successor legislation, for such year. Any taxpayer claiming the exemption under this section shall be required to demonstrate their entitlement thereto annually by submitting an application and supporting documentation to the City Manager or their designee in the manner and at the time established in regulations and/or guidelines hereafter promulgated by the City Manager subject to review by the City Council in its discretion. Such applications shall be on forms provided by the City Manager, or their designee, and shall provide and/or be accompanied by such information as the City Manager shall require, including but not limited to, federal income tax returns and W-2 forms.~~

#### **7.54.070 Waiver**

A. The Empty Homes Tax may be waived by the City Manager or their designee for an owner of Residential Units provided that:

1. The owner or owners are all natural persons or family trusts; and

1.2. The owner or owners all own a single owner-occupied property of four or fewer Residential Units, inclusive of accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units, and no other Residential Units in the City; and

2.3. The owner or owners are all either sixty-five (65) years of age or older or are low income. For purposes of this Section, "low income" means having a combined family income, from all sources for the previous year, at or below the income level qualifying as eighty percent (80%) of area median income for a family of such size under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.A. Sections 1437 et. seq.), or successor legislation, for such year.

B. Additionally, a natural person or family trust who is the owner of a single owner-occupied property of four or fewer Residential Units, inclusive of accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units, and no other Residential Units in the City may seek a waiver for a single Vacant Residential Unit on the property on the basis that it is used by an owner-occupant for personal, non-residential and uncompensated purposes.

C. Any taxpayer seeking a waiver under this Section shall be required to demonstrate their entitlement thereto annually by submitting an application and supporting documentation to the City Manager or their designee in the manner and at the time established in regulations and/or guidelines hereafter promulgated by the City Manager subject to review by the City Council in its discretion. Such applications shall be on forms provided by the City Manager, or their designee.

#### **7.54.080 Administration; Penalties**

A. The City Manager or their designee shall enforce the provisions of this Chapter and may prescribe, adopt, and enforce rules and regulations relating to the administration and enforcement of this chapter. ~~The City Manager shall cause all moneys collected pursuant to this chapter to be deposited to the credit of the general fund.~~

B. The tax required by this Chapter is delinquent if not received by the tax administrator on or before February 28 of each year.

C. Any person who fails to pay the tax required by this Chapter to the City or any amount of tax required to be collected and paid to the City within the time required shall pay a penalty of ten percent of the tax or amount of the tax, in addition to the tax or amount of tax, plus interest at the rate of one percent per month from the date on which the tax or the amount of tax required to be collected became due and payable to the City until the date of payment.

D. Transactions with the principal purpose of avoiding or evading all or a portion of the Empty Homes Tax shall be disregarded for purposes of determining the amount of the Empty Homes Tax and whether the Empty Homes Tax is due. Any owner determined to have engaged in one or more transactions with the principal purpose of avoiding or



evading all or a portion of the Empty Homes Tax shall be liable for the Empty Homes Tax and also liable for a penalty in an amount equal to the Empty Homes Tax.

E. Any tax required to be paid by an owner under the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed a debt owed by the owner to the City. Any person owing money to the City under the provisions of this chapter shall be liable to an action brought in the name of the City for the recovery of such amount, along with any collection costs incurred by the City as a result of the person's noncompliance with this chapter, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, plus interest and penalties as herein provided.

**7.54.090 ~~Housing Trust Fund; Deposit of Proceeds~~ Use of Funds for General Municipal Purposes.**

A. The Council may deposit any portion of the ~~general revenue purposes~~ proceeds generated by the Empty Homes Tax into the Housing Trust Fund, subject to its operating rules, or it may use any of the proceeds to fund any general municipal services designated by the Council.

**7.54.100 ~~Technical Assistance to the City Manager; Annual Reports.~~**

~~A. The Department of Public Works, the Planning Department, and the Rent Board, shall provide technical assistance to the City Manager, upon the City Manager's request, to administer the Empty Homes Tax.~~

Commencing with a report filed no later than February 15, 2026, covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the City Manager shall file annually with the Council, by February 15 of each year, a report containing the amount of monies collected from the tax during the prior fiscal year.

**7.54.110 Authorization and Limitation on Issuance of Bonds.**

The City shall be authorized to pledge revenues generated by the Empty Homes Tax to the repayment of limited tax bonds or other forms of indebtedness authorized under this Section. The Council shall by ordinance or resolution, as applicable, establish the terms of any limited tax bonds or other forms of indebtedness authorized hereby, including but not limited to, the amount of the issue, date, covenants, denominations, interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, tax status, manner of sale, and such other particulars as are necessary or desirable.

**7.54.120 Severability.**

If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The People of the City of Berkeley hereby declare that they would have passed

this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional.

**7.54.130 Savings Clause.**

No section, clause, part, or provision of this Chapter shall be construed as requiring the payment of any tax that would be in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of the Constitution or laws of the State of California.

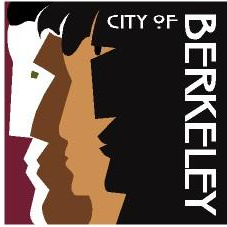
**7.54.130 Liberal Construction.**

This Chapter shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purpose.

Section 2. Increase Appropriations Limit. Pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII B and applicable laws, for four years from November 8, 2022, the appropriations limit for the City shall be increased by the aggregate sum collected by the levy of the general tax imposed under this ordinance.

Section 3. California Environmental Quality Act Requirements. This Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., under, including without limitation, Public Resources Code section 21065 and CEQA Guidelines sections 15378(b)(4) and 15061(b)(3), as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity authorized herein may have a significant effect on the environment and pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080, subdivision (b)(8), and CEQA Guidelines section 15273 as the approval of government revenues to fund existing services.

Section 4. General Tax; Majority Vote Requirement. This Ordinance imposes a general tax for general revenue purposes and shall be effective only if approved by a majority of the voters voting thereon.



Kate Harrison  
Councilmember District 4

## REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 3

**Meeting Date:** July 26, 2022

**Item Number:** 6

**Item Description:** Placing a General Tax Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot to Tax Vacant Residential Units

**Submitted by:** Vice Mayor Harrison

The revised version of the ballot measure ordinance includes clarifying amendments drafted in consultation with the City Attorney in the following sections:

- **7.54.030 I.** – Clarifying that the Owner In Care Period definition applies to a single occupant;
- **7.54.030 L.** – Clarifying that the Residential Unit definition does not include mobile homes;
- **7.54.030 L.** – Clarifying that short-term rentals are only excluded from the definition of Residential Unit to the extent that they are permitted under BMC 23.314;
- **7.54.030 M.** – Clarifying that the Vacancy Exclusion Period includes instances when the owner of an owner-occupied Residential Unit is temporarily absent from their unit, e.g., on sabbatical, but the unit is continuously designated as their principal residence.

ORDINANCE NO. #,###-N.S.

ADDING CHAPTER 7.54 TO THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO IMPOSE AN  
EXCISE TAX ON KEEPING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VACANT TO FUND GENERAL  
MUNICIPAL SERVICES

BE IT ORDAINED by the people of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 7.54 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

**Chapter 7.54**

**Empty Homes Tax**

**Sections:**

**7.54.010 Short Title.**

**7.54.020 Findings and Purpose.**

**7.54.030 Definitions.**

**7.54.040 Imposition of Tax.**

**7.54.050 Returns; Presumption of Vacancy.**

**7.54.060 Exemptions and Exclusions.**

**7.54.070 Administration; Penalties.**

**7.54.080 Housing Trust Fund; Deposit of Proceeds.**

**7.54.090 Technical Assistance to the City Manager; Annual Reports.**

**7.54.100 Authorization and Limitation on Issuance of Bonds.**

**7.54.110 Severability.**

**7.54.120 Savings Clause.**

**7.54.130 Liberal Construction.**

**7.54.010 Short Title.**

This Chapter shall be known as the “Empty Homes Tax Ordinance,” and the tax it imposes shall be known as the “Empty Homes Tax.”

**7.54.020 Findings and purpose.**

The People of the City of Berkeley find and declare as follows:

A. Residential vacancies are an ongoing concern in Berkeley. According to the 2020 Decennial Census, 9% of Berkeley’s housing units, or a total of 4,725 units, sat vacant at the time of the Census.

B. Of total vacancies, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board data from 2022 indicates that 1,128 fully or partially regulated units in buildings with more than two units have been classified by their owners as not available to rent. Returning these units to the housing market is a key strategy for ensuring long-term affordability.

C. Prolonged vacancy restricts the supply of available housing units and runs counter to the City's housing objectives. Prolonged vacancies can also decrease economic activity in neighborhoods and lead to blight.

D. The housing affordability crisis has created an urgent need to pay for additional services and programs including, but not limited to, construction of new affordable housing for households with a household income of 80% or less of Area Median Income, including by providing pre-development funding to non-profit affordable housing developers, and the acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-unit buildings for affordable housing, and the operation of such buildings acquired and/or rehabilitated.

E. Berkeley is also working to ensure all public funds available to build affordable housing are being maximized, from the City, Alameda County, State and Federal governments.

F. Even with the addition of City, County, State, and Federal resources, Berkeley is unable to house all of its residents.

G. The increased costs of meeting the challenges of the housing crisis have impacted Berkeley's General Fund.

H. The City needs new funds to pay for municipal services. The Empty Homes Tax is intended to disincentivize prolonged vacancies, thereby increasing the number of housing units available for occupancy, while also raising funds for municipal services, including but not limited to constructing, acquiring, and rehabilitating affordable housing.

#### **7.54.030 Definitions.**

Unless otherwise defined in this Chapter, the terms used in this Chapter shall have the meanings given to them in Chapters 2.44 and 9.04, of the Municipal Code, as amended from time to time. For purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

A. "Affiliate" means an entity under common majority ownership or common control, whether that ownership or control is direct or indirect, with any other person or entity, including but not limited to a person or entity that majority owns or controls, or is majority owned or controlled by, any other person or entity.

B. "Building Permit Application Period" means the period following the date that an application for a building permit for repair, rehabilitation, or construction with respect to a Residential Unit is filed with the City through the date the Planning Department or its successor agency grants or denies that application, not to exceed one year.

Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if more than one building permit application is filed by or on behalf of one or more persons in the Owner's Group for the same Residential Unit, the Building Permit Application Period shall mean only the applicable period following the date the first application is filed with the City by or on behalf of anyone in the Owner's Group. In the case of an owner qualifying for the Disaster Period in subsection D, the Building Permit Application Period may be extended beyond one year if the owner makes a good faith effort, as determined by the building official, to obtain a building permit.

C. "Rehabilitation Period" means the two-year period following the date that the City issues a building permit for repair, or rehabilitation, with respect to a Residential Unit, provided that if the City issues multiple building permits to or for the benefit of one or more persons in the Owner's Group for the same Residential Unit, the Rehabilitation Period shall mean only the two-year period following the issuance of the first building permit to or for the benefit of anyone in the Owner's Group.

D. "Disaster Period" means the two-year period following the date that a Residential Unit was made uninhabitable or unusable due to fire, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event, except where a negligent, reckless or willful act or omission by the owner or agent of the owner contributed to or caused the Residential Unit to become uninhabitable or unusable due to fire, natural disaster or other catastrophic event.

E. "Homeowners' Exemption Period" means the period during which a Residential Unit is the principal place of residence of any owner of that Residential Unit and for which such owner validly has claimed either the homeowners' property tax exemption under Section 218 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or the disabled veterans' exemption under Section 205.5 of that Code, as those sections may be amended from time to time.

F. "Lease Period" means the period during which any owner of a Residential Unit or any person in the Owner's Group of that owner leases that Residential Unit to one or more tenants under a bona fide lease intended for occupancy, but not including any lease or rental of that Residential Unit to anyone in the Owner's Group or to travelers, vacationers, or other transient occupants.

G. "New Construction Period" means the one-year period following the date that the City issues a certificate of final completion and occupancy with respect to a Residential Unit in a newly erected building or a newly added Residential Unit in an existing building.

H. "Owner Death Period" means, with respect to a co-owner or decedent's estate, heirs, or beneficiaries, the period during which a Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused because of the death of any owner of a Residential Unit who was the sole occupant of that Residential Unit immediately prior to such owner's death, provided that such period shall not exceed the longer of two years or the period during which the Residential Unit is subject to the authority of a probate court.

I. "Owner In Care Period" means the period during which a Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused because ~~all the~~ occupants of the Residential Unit who used that Residential Unit as their principal residence ~~are is~~ residing in a hospital, long term or supportive care facility, medical care or treatment facility, or other similar facility.

J. "Owner's Group" means for each owner of a Residential Unit, with respect to each Residential Unit, the owner, any current or former co-owner, and any Related Person or Affiliate of the owner or any current or former co-owner.

K. "Related Person" means a spouse, domestic partner, child, parent, or sibling.

L. "Residential Unit" means a house, an apartment, ~~a mobile home~~, a group of rooms, or a single room that is designed as separate living quarters, other than units occupied or intended for occupancy primarily by travelers, vacationers, or other transient

occupants only so long as and to the extent permitted by Chapter 23.314 of the Municipal Code. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have a kitchen and direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. For purposes of this Chapter, a Residential Unit shall not include a unit in a currently operational nursing home, residential care facility, or other similar facility, or any unit that is fully exempt from property tax under the welfare exemption under Section 214(g) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code, as may be amended from time to time.

M. "Vacancy Exclusion Period" means the Building Permit Application Period, Rehabilitation Period, Disaster Period, Homeowners' Exemption Period, Lease Period, New Construction Period, Owner Death Period, or Owner In Care Period, or where the owner of an owner-occupied Residential Unit is temporarily absent from their unit and the unit is continuously designated as their principal residence, or where the owner of an owner-occupied duplex, triplex, or quadplex has affirmatively indicated through filings with the Rent Board that a single other unit in the duplex, triplex, or quadplex is being used by the owner or a family member for no consideration.

N. "Vacant" means unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused, for more than 182 days, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive, in a calendar year.

#### **7.54.040 Imposition of Tax.**

A. Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, the City imposes an annual Empty Homes Tax on each person that owns a Residential Unit for keeping that Residential Unit Vacant.

B. The tax on an owner keeping a Residential Unit Vacant shall be as follows:

1. For the first calendar year that the Residential Unit is Vacant, the tax shall be \$3,000 per vacant condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse unit under separate residential unit ownership and \$6,000 per any other vacant Residential Unit.
2. For the second consecutive calendar year and each subsequent calendar year thereafter that the Residential Unit is Vacant, the tax shall be \$6,000 per vacant condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse unit under separate residential unit ownership and \$12,000 per any other vacant Residential Unit.

C. The rates set forth in subsection B. of this Section shall be adjusted annually in accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index: All Urban Consumers for the San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose Area for All Items as reported by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or any successor to that index, as of December 31st of the preceding year, beginning with the 2025 calendar year.

D. The Empty Homes Tax shall be payable by the owner or owners of the Residential Unit kept Vacant. Not more than one tax per Residential Unit shall be imposed under this Section for a calendar year by reason of multiple liable owners. If there are multiple liable owners, each owner shall be jointly and severally liable for the tax, which shall be the highest amount of tax payable by any owner for that Residential Unit for that calendar year.

E. A person shall be liable for the Empty Homes Tax only if that person, while owning a Residential Unit, has kept or is deemed to have kept that Residential Unit unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused, for more than 182 days, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive, in a calendar year. In determining whether an owner has kept a Residential Unit Vacant during a calendar year, days within any Vacancy Exclusion Period shall be disregarded if that Vacancy Exclusion Period applies to that owner for that Residential Unit, as shall days in which the Residential Unit was not owned by the owner, but the owner shall be deemed to have kept the Residential Unit unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused on all other days that such Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused during the calendar year.

F. The Empty Homes Tax shall take effect on January 1, 2024. The Empty Homes Tax shall expire on December 31, 2034, unless reauthorized by the voters prior to such date.

G. The Empty Homes Tax shall be suspended for as long as the Berkeley COVID-19 Residential Eviction Moratorium is in effect pursuant to BMC 13.110 and shall resume upon expiration.

**7.54.050 Returns; Presumption of Vacancy.**

A. Each person that is required to pay the Empty Homes Tax shall file a return in the form and manner prescribed by the City Manager.

B. Each person that owns a Residential Unit at any time during a calendar year and that is not exempt from the Empty Homes Tax with respect to that Residential Unit under any one of subsections A. through E. of Section 7.54.060 shall file a return for that calendar year in the form and manner prescribed by the City Manager. A person that fails to file the return required by this subsection B. for a Residential Unit shall be presumed to have kept that Residential Unit Vacant for the calendar year for which such return is required. The person who fails to file the required return may rebut the presumption by producing satisfactory evidence that such person did not keep the Residential Unit Vacant during the calendar year for which the return is required.

**7.54.060 Exemptions and Exclusions.**

A. For only so long as and to the extent that the City is prohibited by the Constitution or laws of the State of California or the Constitution or laws of the United States from imposing the Empty Homes Tax on any person that person shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax.

B. Any organization that is exempt from income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax.

C. The City, the State of California, and any county, municipal corporation, district, or other political subdivision of the State shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax, except where any constitutional or statutory immunity from taxation is waived or is not applicable.

D. A natural person or family trust that is the owner of no more than two Single Family Dwellings or condominiums and no other Residential Units in the City shall be exempt



from the Empty Homes Tax for Single Family Dwelling Residential Units or condominiums. For purposes of this subsection D. only, "Single Family Dwelling" is inclusive of a single accessory dwelling unit and a junior accessory dwelling unit. Additionally, for the purposes of this subsection D. only, the "owner" of such Rental Property shall not be any of the following set forth under California Civil Code Section 1947.12(d)(5)(A)(i)-(iii) ("AB 1482"): a real estate investment trust, as defined in Section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code; a corporation; or a limited liability company.

E. The tax imposed by this Chapter shall not apply to a property of four or fewer units which is owner-occupied and whose owner (1) is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and (2) whose combined family income, from all sources for the previous year, is at or below the income level qualifying as eighty percent (80%) of area median income for a Family of such size under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.A. Sections 1437 et. seq.), or successor legislation, for such year. Any taxpayer claiming the exemption under this section shall be required to demonstrate their entitlement thereto annually by submitting an application and supporting documentation to the City Manager or their designee in the manner and at the time established in regulations and/or guidelines hereafter promulgated by the City Manager subject to review by the City Council in its discretion. Such applications shall be on forms provided by the City Manager, or their designee, and shall provide and/or be accompanied by such information as the City Manager shall require, including but not limited to, federal income tax returns and W-2 forms.

#### **7.54.070 Administration; Penalties**

A. The City Manager shall enforce the provisions of this Chapter and may prescribe, adopt, and enforce rules and regulations relating to the administration and enforcement of this chapter. The City Manager shall cause all moneys collected pursuant to this chapter to be deposited to the credit of the general fund.

B. The tax required by this Chapter is delinquent if not received by the tax administrator on or before February 28 of each year.

C. Any person who fails to pay the tax required by this Chapter to the City or any amount of tax required to be collected and paid to the City within the time required shall pay a penalty of ten percent of the tax or amount of the tax, in addition to the tax or amount of tax, plus interest at the rate of one percent per month from the date on which the tax or the amount of tax required to be collected became due and payable to the City until the date of payment.

D. Transactions with the principal purpose of avoiding or evading all or a portion of the Empty Homes Tax shall be disregarded for purposes of determining the amount of the Empty Homes Tax and whether the Empty Homes Tax is due. Any owner determined to have engaged in one or more transactions with the principal purpose of avoiding or evading all or a portion of the Empty Homes Tax shall be liable for the Empty Homes Tax and also liable for a penalty in an amount equal to the Empty Homes Tax.

E. Any tax required to be paid by an owner under the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed a debt owed by the owner to the City. Any person owing money to the City

under the provisions of this chapter shall be liable to an action brought in the name of the City for the recovery of such amount, along with any collection costs incurred by the City as a result of the person's noncompliance with this chapter, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, plus interest and penalties as herein provided.

**7.54.080 Housing Trust Fund; Deposit of Proceeds.**

A. The Council may deposit any portion of the general revenue purposes proceeds generated by the Empty Homes Tax into the Housing Trust Fund, subject to its operating rules.

**7.54.090 Technical Assistance to the City Manager; Annual Reports.**

A. The Department of Public Works, the Planning Department, and the Rent Board, shall provide technical assistance to the City Manager, upon the City Manager's request, to administer the Empty Homes Tax.

B. Commencing with a report filed no later than February 15, 2026, covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the City Manager shall file annually with the Council, by February 15 of each year, a report containing the amount of monies collected from the tax during the prior fiscal year.

**7.54.100 Authorization and Limitation on Issuance of Bonds.**

The City shall be authorized to pledge revenues generated by the Empty Homes Tax to the repayment of limited tax bonds or other forms of indebtedness authorized under this Section. The Council shall by ordinance or resolution, as applicable, establish the terms of any limited tax bonds or other forms of indebtedness authorized hereby, including but not limited to, the amount of the issue, date, covenants, denominations, interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, tax status, manner of sale, and such other particulars as are necessary or desirable.

**7.54.110 Severability.**

If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The People of the City of Berkeley hereby declare that they would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional.

**7.54.120 Savings Clause.**

No section, clause, part, or provision of this Chapter shall be construed as requiring the payment of any tax that would be in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of the Constitution or laws of the State of California.

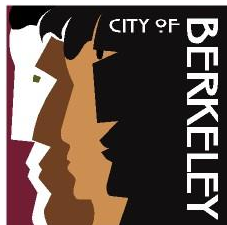
**7.54.130 Liberal Construction.**

This Chapter shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purpose.

Section 2. Increase Appropriations Limit. Pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII B and applicable laws, for four years from November 8, 2022, the appropriations limit for the City shall be increased by the aggregate sum collected by the levy of the general tax imposed under this ordinance.

Section 3. California Environmental Quality Act Requirements. This Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., under, including without limitation, Public Resources Code section 21065 and CEQA Guidelines sections 15378(b)(4) and 15061(b)(3), as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity authorized herein may have a significant effect on the environment and pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080, subdivision (b)(8), and CEQA Guidelines section 15273 as the approval of government revenues to fund existing services.

Section 4. General Tax; Majority Vote Requirement. This Ordinance imposes a general tax for general revenue purposes and shall be effective only if approved by a majority of the voters voting thereon.



Kate Harrison  
Councilmember District 4

## REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 1

**Meeting Date:** July 26, 2022

**Item Number:** 6

**Item Description:** Placing a General Tax Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot to Tax Vacant Residential Units

**Submitted by:** Vice Mayor Harrison

The revised version of the ballot measure ordinance includes clarifying amendments drafted in consultation with the City Attorney in the following sections:

- **7.54.030 D.** – Clarifying the disaster period exemption as excluding instances where an owner or agent makes a negligent, reckless or willful act or omission that contributed to or caused the Residential Unit to subsequently become uninhabitable or unusable due to fire, natural disaster or other catastrophic event;
- **7.54.030 M.** – Clarifying that the owner use / family member exemption applies to the owner of an owner-occupied duplex, triplex, or quadplex;
- **7.54.060 D.** – Clarifying that the Single Family Dwellings and condominiums exemption applies to owners with no other Residential Units in the City.

## ORDINANCE NO. #,###-N.S.

ADDING CHAPTER 7.54 TO THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO IMPOSE AN  
EXCISE TAX ON KEEPING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VACANT TO FUND GENERAL  
MUNICIPAL SERVICES

BE IT ORDAINED by the people of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 7.54 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

**Chapter 7.54**

**Empty Homes Tax**

**Sections:**

**7.54.010 Short Title.**

**7.54.020 Findings and Purpose.**

**7.54.030 Definitions.**

**7.54.040 Imposition of Tax.**

**7.54.050 Returns; Presumption of Vacancy.**

**7.54.060 Exemptions and Exclusions.**

**7.54.070 Administration; Penalties.**

**7.54.080 Housing Trust Fund; Deposit of Proceeds.**

**7.54.090 Technical Assistance to the City Manager; Annual Reports.**

**7.54.100 Authorization and Limitation on Issuance of Bonds.**

**7.54.110 Severability.**

**7.54.120 Savings Clause.**

**[7.54.130 Liberal Construction.](#)**

**7.54.010 Short Title.**

This Chapter shall be known as the “Empty Homes Tax Ordinance,” and the tax it imposes shall be known as the “Empty Homes Tax.”

**7.54.020 Findings and purpose.**

The People of the City of Berkeley find and declare as follows:

A. Residential vacancies are an ongoing concern in Berkeley. According to the 2020 Decennial Census, 9% of Berkeley’s housing units, or a total of 4,725 units, sat vacant at the time of the Census.

B. Of total vacancies, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board data from 2022 indicates that 1,128 fully or partially regulated units in buildings with more than two units have been classified by their owners as not available to rent. Returning these units to the housing market is a key strategy for ensuring long-term affordability.

C. Prolonged vacancy restricts the supply of available housing units and runs counter to the City's housing objectives. Prolonged vacancies can also decrease economic activity in neighborhoods and lead to blight.

D. The housing affordability crisis has created an urgent need to pay for additional services and programs including, but not limited to, construction of new affordable housing for households with a household income of 80% or less of Area Median Income, including by providing pre-development funding to non-profit affordable housing developers, and the acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-unit buildings for affordable housing, and the operation of such buildings acquired and/or rehabilitated.

E. Berkeley is also working to ensure all public funds available to build affordable housing are being maximized, from the City, Alameda County, State and Federal governments.

F. Even with the addition of City, County, State, and Federal resources, Berkeley is unable to house all of its residents.

G. The increased costs of meeting the challenges of the housing crisis have impacted Berkeley's General Fund.

H. The City needs new funds to pay for municipal services. The Empty Homes Tax is intended to disincentivize prolonged vacancies, thereby increasing the number of housing units available for occupancy, while also raising funds for municipal services, including but not limited to constructing, acquiring, and rehabilitating affordable housing.

#### **7.54.030 Definitions.**

Unless otherwise defined in this Chapter, the terms used in this Chapter shall have the meanings given to them in Chapters 2.44 and 9.04, of the Municipal Code, as amended from time to time. For purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

A. "Affiliate" means an entity under common majority ownership or common control, whether that ownership or control is direct or indirect, with any other person or entity, including but not limited to a person or entity that majority owns or controls, or is majority owned or controlled by, any other person or entity.

B. "Building Permit Application Period" means the period following the date that an application for a building permit for repair, rehabilitation, or construction with respect to a Residential Unit is filed with the City through the date the Planning Department or its successor agency grants or denies that application, not to exceed one year.

Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if more than one building permit application is filed by or on behalf of one or more persons in the Owner's Group for the same Residential Unit, the Building Permit Application Period shall mean only the applicable period following the date the first application is filed with the City by or on behalf of anyone in the Owner's Group. In the case of an owner qualifying for the Disaster Period in subsection D, the Building Permit Application Period may be extended beyond one year if the owner makes a good faith effort, as determined by the building official, to obtain a building permit.

C. "Rehabilitation Period" means the two-year period following the date that the City issues a building permit for repair, or rehabilitation, with respect to a Residential Unit, provided that if the City issues multiple building permits to or for the benefit of one or more persons in the Owner's Group for the same Residential Unit, the Rehabilitation Period shall mean only the two-year period following the issuance of the first building permit to or for the benefit of anyone in the Owner's Group.

D. "Disaster Period" means the two-year period following the date that a Residential Unit was ~~severely damaged and~~ made uninhabitable or unusable due to fire, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event, except where a negligent, reckless or willful act or omission by the owner or agent of the owner contributed to or caused the Residential Unit to become uninhabitable or unusable due to fire, natural disaster or other catastrophic event.

E. "Homeowners' Exemption Period" means the period during which a Residential Unit is the principal place of residence of any owner of that Residential Unit and for which such owner validly has claimed either the homeowners' property tax exemption under Section 218 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or the disabled veterans' exemption under Section 205.5 of that Code, as those sections may be amended from time to time.

F. "Lease Period" means the period during which any owner of a Residential Unit or any person in the Owner's Group of that owner leases that Residential Unit to one or more tenants under a bona fide lease intended for occupancy, but not including any lease or rental of that Residential Unit to anyone in the Owner's Group or to travelers, vacationers, or other transient occupants.

G. "New Construction Period" means the one-year period following the date that the City issues a certificate of final completion and occupancy with respect to a Residential Unit in a newly erected building or a newly added Residential Unit in an existing building.

H. "Owner Death Period" means, with respect to a co-owner or decedent's estate, heirs, or beneficiaries, the period during which a Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused because of the death of any owner of a Residential Unit who was the sole occupant of that Residential Unit immediately prior to such owner's death, provided that such period shall not exceed the longer of two years or the period during which the Residential Unit is subject to the authority of a probate court.

I. "Owner In Care Period" means the period during which a Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused because all occupants of the Residential Unit who used that Residential Unit as their principal residence are residing in a hospital, long term or supportive care facility, medical care or treatment facility, or other similar facility.

J. "Owner's Group" means for each owner of a Residential Unit, with respect to each Residential Unit, the owner, any current or former co-owner, and any Related Person or Affiliate of the owner or any current or former co-owner.

K. "Related Person" means a spouse, domestic partner, child, parent, or sibling.

L. "Residential Unit" means a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is designed as separate living quarters, other than units occupied or intended for occupancy primarily by travelers, vacationers, or other transient occupants. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have a kitchen and direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. For purposes of this Chapter, a Residential Unit shall not include a unit in a currently operational nursing home, residential care facility, or other similar facility, or any unit that is fully exempt from property tax under the welfare exemption under Section 214(g) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code, as may be amended from time to time.

M. "Vacancy Exclusion Period" means the Building Permit Application Period, Rehabilitation Period, Disaster Period, Homeowners' Exemption Period, Lease Period, New Construction Period, Owner Death Period, or Owner In Care Period, or where the owner of an owner-occupied duplex, triplex, or quadplex has affirmatively indicated through filings with the Rent Board that a single other unit in the an-owner-occupied duplex, triplex, or quadplex is being used by the owner or a family member for no consideration.

N. "Vacant" means unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused, for more than 182 days, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive, in a calendar year.

#### **7.54.040 Imposition of Tax.**

A. Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, the City imposes an annual Empty Homes Tax on each person that owns a Residential Unit for keeping that Residential Unit Vacant.

B. The tax on an owner keeping a Residential Unit Vacant shall be as follows:

1. For the first calendar year that the Residential Unit is Vacant, the tax shall be \$3,000 per vacant condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse unit under separate residential unit ownership and \$6,000 per any other vacant Residential Unit.

2. For the second consecutive calendar year and each subsequent calendar year thereafter that the Residential Unit is Vacant, the tax shall be \$6,000 per vacant condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse unit under separate residential unit ownership and \$12,000 per any other vacant Residential Unit.

C. The rates set forth in subsection B. of this Section shall be adjusted annually in accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index: All Urban Consumers for the San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose Area for All Items as reported by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or any successor to that index, as of December 31st of the preceding year, beginning with the 2025 calendar year.

D. The Empty Homes Tax shall be payable by the owner or owners of the Residential Unit kept Vacant. Not more than one tax per Residential Unit shall be imposed under this Section for a calendar year by reason of multiple liable owners. If there are multiple liable owners, each owner shall be jointly and severally liable for the tax, which shall be



the highest amount of tax payable by any owner for that Residential Unit for that calendar year.

E. A person shall be liable for the Empty Homes Tax only if that person, while owning a Residential Unit, has kept or is deemed to have kept that Residential Unit unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused, for more than 182 days, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive, in a calendar year. In determining whether an owner has kept a Residential Unit Vacant during a calendar year, days within any Vacancy Exclusion Period shall be disregarded if that Vacancy Exclusion Period applies to that owner for that Residential Unit, as shall days in which the Residential Unit was not owned by the owner, but the owner shall be deemed to have kept the Residential Unit unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused on all other days that such Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused during the calendar year.

F. The Empty Homes Tax shall take effect on January 1, 2024. The Empty Homes Tax shall expire on December 31, 2034, unless reauthorized by the voters prior to such date.

G. The Empty Homes Tax shall be suspended for as long as the Berkeley COVID-19 Residential Eviction Moratorium is in effect pursuant to BMC 13.110 and shall resume upon expiration.

**7.54.050 Returns; Presumption of Vacancy.**

A. Each person that is required to pay the Empty Homes Tax shall file a return in the form and manner prescribed by the City Manager.

B. Each person that owns a Residential Unit at any time during a calendar year and that is not exempt from the Empty Homes Tax with respect to that Residential Unit under any one of subsections A. through E. of Section 7.54.060 shall file a return for that calendar year in the form and manner prescribed by the City Manager. A person that fails to file the return required by this subsection B. for a Residential Unit shall be presumed to have kept that Residential Unit Vacant for the calendar year for which such return is required. The person who fails to file the required return may rebut the presumption by producing satisfactory evidence that such person did not keep the Residential Unit Vacant during the calendar year for which the return is required.

**7.54.060 Exemptions and Exclusions.**

A. For only so long as and to the extent that the City is prohibited by the Constitution or laws of the State of California or the Constitution or laws of the United States from imposing the Empty Homes Tax on any person that person shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax.

B. Any organization that is exempt from income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax.

C. The City, the State of California, and any county, municipal corporation, district, or other political subdivision of the State shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax, except where any constitutional or statutory immunity from taxation is waived or is not applicable.

D. A natural person or family trust that is the owner of no more than two Single Family Dwellings or condominiums and no other Residential Units in the City shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax for Single Family Dwelling Residential Units or condominiums. For purposes of this subsection D. only, "Single Family Dwelling" is inclusive of a single accessory dwelling unit and a junior accessory dwelling unit. Additionally, for the purposes of this subsection D. only, the "owner" of such Rental Property shall not be any of the following set forth under California Civil Code Section 1947.12(d)(5)(A)(i)-(iii) ("AB 1482"): a real estate investment trust, as defined in Section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code; a corporation; or a limited liability company.

E. The tax imposed by this Chapter shall not apply to a property of four or fewer units which is owner-occupied and whose owner (1) is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and (2) whose combined family income, from all sources for the previous year, is at or below the income level qualifying as eighty percent (80%) of area median income for a Family of such size under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.A. Sections 1437 et. seq.), or successor legislation, for such year. Any taxpayer claiming the exemption under this section shall be required to demonstrate their entitlement thereto annually by submitting an application and supporting documentation to the City Manager or their designee in the manner and at the time established in regulations and/or guidelines hereafter promulgated by the City Manager subject to review by the City Council in its discretion. Such applications shall be on forms provided by the City Manager, or their designee, and shall provide and/or be accompanied by such information as the City Manager shall require, including but not limited to, federal income tax returns and W-2 forms.

#### **7.54.070 Administration; Penalties**

A. The City Manager shall enforce the provisions of this Chapter and may prescribe, adopt, and enforce rules and regulations relating to the administration and enforcement of this chapter. The City Manager shall cause all moneys collected pursuant to this chapter to be deposited to the credit of the general fund.

B. The tax required by this Chapter is delinquent if not received by the tax administrator on or before February 28 of each year.

C. Any person who fails to pay the tax required by this Chapter to the City or any amount of tax required to be collected and paid to the City within the time required shall pay a penalty of ten percent of the tax or amount of the tax, in addition to the tax or amount of tax, plus interest at the rate of one percent per month from the date on which the tax or the amount of tax required to be collected became due and payable to the City until the date of payment.

D. Transactions with the principal purpose of avoiding or evading all or a portion of the Empty Homes Tax shall be disregarded for purposes of determining the amount of the Empty Homes Tax and whether the Empty Homes Tax is due. Any owner determined to have engaged in one or more transactions with the principal purpose of avoiding or evading all or a portion of the Empty Homes Tax shall be liable for the Empty Homes Tax and also liable for a penalty in an amount equal to the Empty Homes Tax.

E. Any tax required to be paid by an owner under the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed a debt owed by the owner to the City. Any person owing money to the City under the provisions of this chapter shall be liable to an action brought in the name of the City for the recovery of such amount, along with any collection costs incurred by the City as a result of the person's noncompliance with this chapter, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, plus interest and penalties as herein provided.

**7.54.080 Housing Trust Fund; Deposit of Proceeds.**

A. The Council may deposit any portion of the general revenue purposes proceeds generated by the Empty Homes Tax into the Housing Trust Fund, subject to its operating rules.

**7.54.090 Technical Assistance to the City Manager; Annual Reports.**

A. The Department of Public Works, the Planning Department, and the Rent Board, shall provide technical assistance to the City Manager, upon the City Manager's request, to administer the Empty Homes Tax.

B. Commencing with a report filed no later than February 15, 2026, covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the City Manager shall file annually with the Council, by February 15 of each year, a report containing the amount of monies collected from the tax during the prior fiscal year.

**7.54.100 Authorization and Limitation on Issuance of Bonds.**

The City shall be authorized to pledge revenues generated by the Empty Homes Tax to the repayment of limited tax bonds or other forms of indebtedness authorized under this Section. The Council shall by ordinance or resolution, as applicable, establish the terms of any limited tax bonds or other forms of indebtedness authorized hereby, including but not limited to, the amount of the issue, date, covenants, denominations, interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, tax status, manner of sale, and such other particulars as are necessary or desirable.

**7.54.110 Severability.**

If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The People of the City of Berkeley hereby declare that they would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional.

**7.54.120 Savings Clause.**

No section, clause, part, or provision of this Chapter shall be construed as requiring the payment of any tax that would be in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of the Constitution or laws of the State of California.

**7.54.130 Liberal Construction.**

This Chapter shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purpose.

Section 2. Increase Appropriations Limit. Pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII B and applicable laws, for four years from November 8, 2022, the appropriations limit for the City shall be increased by the aggregate sum collected by the levy of the general tax imposed under this ordinance.

Section 3. California Environmental Quality Act Requirements. This Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., under, including without limitation, Public Resources Code section 21065 and CEQA Guidelines sections 15378(b)(4) and 15061(b)(3), as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity authorized herein may have a significant effect on the environment and pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080, subdivision (b)(8), and CEQA Guidelines section 15273 as the approval of government revenues to fund existing services.

Section 4. General Tax; Majority Vote Requirement. This Ordinance imposes a general tax for general revenue purposes and shall be effective only if approved by a majority of the voters voting thereon.



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR  
August 3, 2022  
(Continued from July 26, 2022)

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Subject: Placing a General Tax Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot to Tax Vacant Residential Units

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a Resolution submitting a ballot measure to tax vacant residential units to a vote of the electors at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election.
2. Designate, by motion, specific members of the Council to file ballot measure arguments on this measure as provided for in Elections Code Section 9282.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No direct fiscal impacts related to the recommended action. Election services have seen a steep increase since 2018, with the City's first million-dollar election in 2020. It is uncertain at this time how recent state mandates and the pandemic will affect election costs in an ongoing basis. In addition, the number of measures placed on the ballot, and the length of the measures, are the primary driving factors in the fluctuation of election costs.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

See attached report submitted by Vice Mayor Harrison, and Councilmembers Robinson and Bartlett (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND

The City Manager is presenting this measure for addition to the November 8, 2022 ballot pursuant to the direction provided by the City Council at the June 14, 2022 regular City Council meeting.

Adoption of the resolution attached to this item will place the measure on the ballot. In addition, with respect to who can author arguments for measures placed on the ballot by the Council, Elections Code Section 9282(b) provides that the legislative body may submit an argument in favor of the measure. The City Council may authorize the

Council as a whole, or certain members of the Council, to submit an argument in favor of the measure.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City Clerk is presenting this action in accordance with the direction given by the City Council at the June 14, 2022 meeting.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900

Attachments:

- 1: Report submitted by Vice Mayor Harrison, and Councilmembers Robinson and Bartlett
- 2: Resolution  
    Exhibit A: Text of Measure
- 3: Previously submitted information, submitted by Vice Mayor Harrison



Kate Harrison  
Vice Mayor, District 4

ACTION CALENDAR  
July 26, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Vice Mayor Harrison, and Councilmembers Robinson and Bartlett  
Subject: Placing an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance on the November 8, 2022 Ballot

RECOMMENDATION

Submit an Ordinance to a vote of the electors at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election adding Chapter 7.54 to the Berkeley Municipal Code taxing property owners for keeping housing units vacant for more than 182 days in a single year, for units that 1) are not under permitted renovation or in probate, and 2) are in multi-unit buildings or are single family homes or condominiums whose owners are not natural persons or family trusts.

CURRENT SITUATION AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City of Berkeley is experiencing a historic housing crisis. Between 2005 and 2019 gross median rent increased by over 50%. This has been particularly burdensome in a city where 58% of residents are renters.<sup>1</sup> While in recent years Berkeley has met its RHNA goals for those earning above 120% Area Median Income (AMI), it has failed to build sufficient housing for everyone else. Further, housing at the >120% AMI category has not significantly improved affordability for lower income residents and has increased displacement in low-income neighborhoods.<sup>2</sup> The extraordinary gap between the housing needs of residents and the availability of housing can only be bridged through the use of numerous policy interventions, including a vacancy tax intended to incentivize owners of housing property to bring units back on the market and discourage speculation.

In a recent poll of top policy priorities among Berkeley voters, increasing affordable housing for low-income and homeless residents received by far the most support, at 58%.<sup>3</sup> While Berkeley is actively building new affordable units, siting and constructing

<sup>1</sup> Anti-Eviction Mapping Project: Densifying Berkeley: Potential Impacts on Displacement and Equity, 2022, <https://www.berkeleyaside.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/AEMP-UpzoningReport-Draft4-3.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> City of Berkeley Community Survey, Live Phone and Text to Online, April 28-May 3, 2022, <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-05-31%20Item%2037%20Discussion%20and%20Direction%20Regarding.pdf>.

new units is a longer-term process, and it is incumbent on the City to maximize the availability of *existing units* that are already built and could be available for rent or sale.

Unfortunately, Alameda County's housing remains unaffordable for many of its residents, and this burden does not fall evenly across income and racial groups. While 47% of renters in Alameda County are rent burdened, the rate is 58% for Black renters and 87% for extremely low-income renters.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, as this crisis continues to unfold, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board data indicates that 1,128 fully or partially regulated<sup>5</sup> units have been classified by their owners as not available to rent (NAR).<sup>6</sup> Around 40% of the 1,128 NAR units are in properties that are completely vacant, and almost 80% of NAR units are in properties that are half or more empty. A few of these are actively being renovated but the majority are not. Many have not been occupied for some time or actually are rented but not reported as being so to the Rent Board. Based on a review of Rent Board data and Google Street View, approximately 100 of these units are in buildings that are entirely vacant and dilapidated. This contributes to neighborhood blight and requires costly vector control and fire inspections. Thus, much of the vacancies in the city are not due to natural turnover.

A recent report examining vacancies in San Francisco found that there is no single force driving the vacancies<sup>7</sup>. It also found that vacancies were disproportionately in multi-family apartment complexes and tended to be in areas with older housing stock and higher rates of new construction— suggesting that property owners are holding older units vacant to capitalize on new construction. Notably, in interviews with numerous landlords, the report found that landlords contradictorily listed rent control as a reason for both low and high vacancy rates<sup>8</sup>. In other words, landlords themselves did not agree there is a clear connection between rent control and vacancy rates.

Oakland and Vancouver, both experiencing their own challenges with housing unaffordability, use a vacant housing tax to encourage owners of vacant units to find tenants or sell to those who will. In 2016, Vancouver passed a measure that placed a surcharge on the assessed value of vacant units. Within two years of its implementation, 21.2% of vacant units returned to occupancy and the city generated

<sup>4</sup> California Housing Partnership Housing Needs Dashboard, 2019,

<https://chpc.net/housingneeds/?view=37.405074,-119.26758,5&county=California,Alameda&group=housingneed&chart=shortfall|current,cost-burden|current,cost-burden-re|current,homelessness,historical-rents,vacancy,asking-rents|2022,budgets|2021,funding|current,state-funding,lihtc|2010:2021:historical,rhna-progress,multifamily-production>

<sup>5</sup> Partially regulated units are only partially covered by the rent ordinance, while fully regulated are completely covered by the ordinance

<sup>6</sup> Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board. There are also units classified as “vacant”, for which property owners are actively seeking tenants.

<sup>7</sup> Paige Dow, Unpacking the Growth in San Francisco's Vacant Housing Stock, 2018,

[https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CR\\_Final\\_2.3.19-1.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1a\\_6T8DJR-p6qZ05u-oeIplpBzfeTabdxNeG\\_-l39vQ-vNIBwe6FT7D8A&fs=e&s=cl](https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CR_Final_2.3.19-1.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1a_6T8DJR-p6qZ05u-oeIplpBzfeTabdxNeG_-l39vQ-vNIBwe6FT7D8A&fs=e&s=cl)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.



\$46 million Canadian dollars. Oakland enacted a vacant property tax of \$3,000 to \$6,000, varying based on property type. In its first year of implementation, the city collected over \$7 million in revenue.<sup>9</sup> San Francisco voters will consider a vacant housing tax measure on the November ballot.

Addressing vacant units is a critical part of addressing Berkeley's housing crisis. Every year that a significant percentage of Berkeley's housing stock remains vacant exacerbates the housing affordability and displacement crises. This item includes a modified version of San Francisco's proposed tax adapted to Berkeley. It is in the public interest to refer to the City Attorney and City Manager to prepare and submit a resolution taxing empty homes that would be submitted to a vote of the electors at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election.

### BACKGROUND

Berkeley's housing challenges are significant, requiring numerous policy interventions across many years to remediate. However, of the units that were built as part of the 2023 RHNA goals, the majority have been unaffordable to most residents.<sup>10</sup>

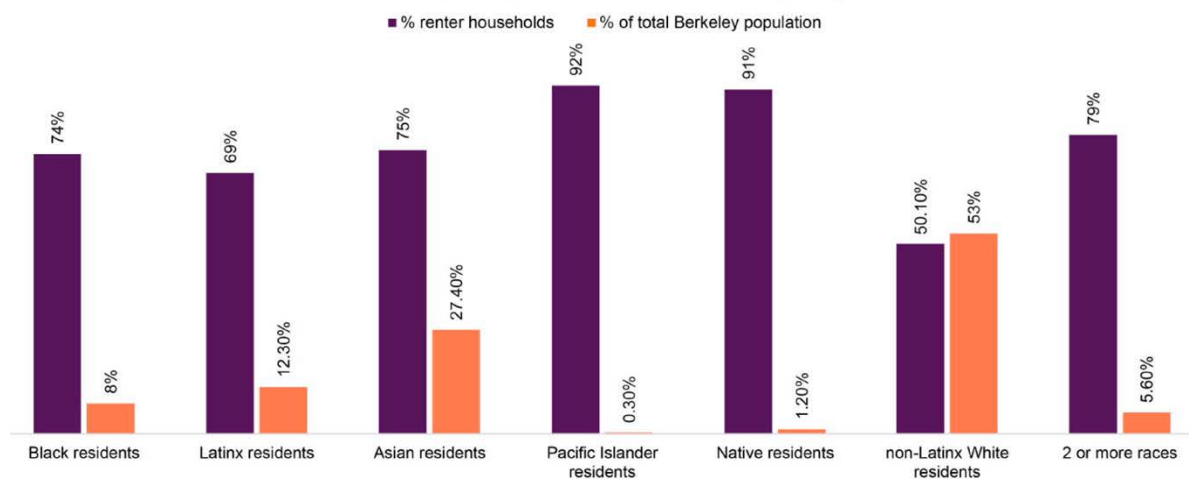
Income Category	Total RHNA (2014- 2023)	Net Units Created (2015- 2020)	Balance Remaining	Percent of RHNA Achieved
Very Low Income	532	173	359	32.5%
Low Income	442	60	382	13.6%
Moderate Income	584	0	584	0%
Above Moderate Income	1,401	2,476	0	176.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,959</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>55.2%</b>

In 2019 the City's median rent was \$3,165, making it affordable to only households earning over \$130k annually. Median rents have also increased by greater than 50% between 2005 and 2019. Rising rents in the city are of particular concern given that the City has a high renter population, and the impact of high rents falls disproportionately on BIPOC residents<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> San Francisco Budget and Legislative Analyst's Office: Residential Vacancies in San Francisco, 2022, [https://56a418ca-94d2-476c-9a45-f491ca4a0387.usrfiles.com/ugd/56a418\\_74b82803e4fb434bb1b13010828a4c01.pdf](https://56a418ca-94d2-476c-9a45-f491ca4a0387.usrfiles.com/ugd/56a418_74b82803e4fb434bb1b13010828a4c01.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> 2020 General Plan APR: City of Berkeley, Table 2

<sup>11</sup> Anti-Eviction Mapping Project: *Densifying Berkeley: Potential Impacts on Displacement and Equity*, 2022, <https://www.berkeleyside.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/AEMP-UpzoningReport-Draft4-3.pdf>

**Percent Renter Occupancy vs. Percent Berkeley Population, 2019<sup>12</sup>**

Fortunately, the City of Berkeley has taken numerous steps in recent years to tackle its affordable housing crisis, including issuing a \$100 million affordable housing bond, permitting Berkeley residents (outside of the fire zones) to receive near-automatic approval to build certain types of ADUs, and rezoning BART stations to allow significant affordable housing. A potential 2022 affordable housing bond is under consideration.

While these efforts will increase the supply of housing in Berkeley, it will take years for the City to reap the benefits. Developments still need to be proposed, approved, and then constructed. Berkeley's large supply of vacant homes presents a unique opportunity for the City to immediately provide new units to renters, as there are no approval processes or lengthy construction timelines.

Additionally, hot housing markets often attract real estate speculation. Redfin data shows that 13% of homes in Oakland were purchased by an institutional investor or business in the fourth quarter of 2021, a 16.9% increase over the year before. In San Francisco, 18% were acquired by institutional investors. This follows a concerning nation-wide trend where large institutional investors have since the beginning of the pandemic purchased an enormous number of homes; over 75% of these offers are in all cash,<sup>13</sup> and many without any inspections, pricing prospective homeowners out of the real estate market. Large financial institutions, like Blackrock, are now some of the largest owners of real estate in the country. However, unlike traditional homeowners, they treat homes as a commodity to build wealth. This is made clear by private equity-backed landlords being 18% more likely than non-equity backed corporate landlords to evict tenants, who are themselves more likely to do so than small landlords. In a

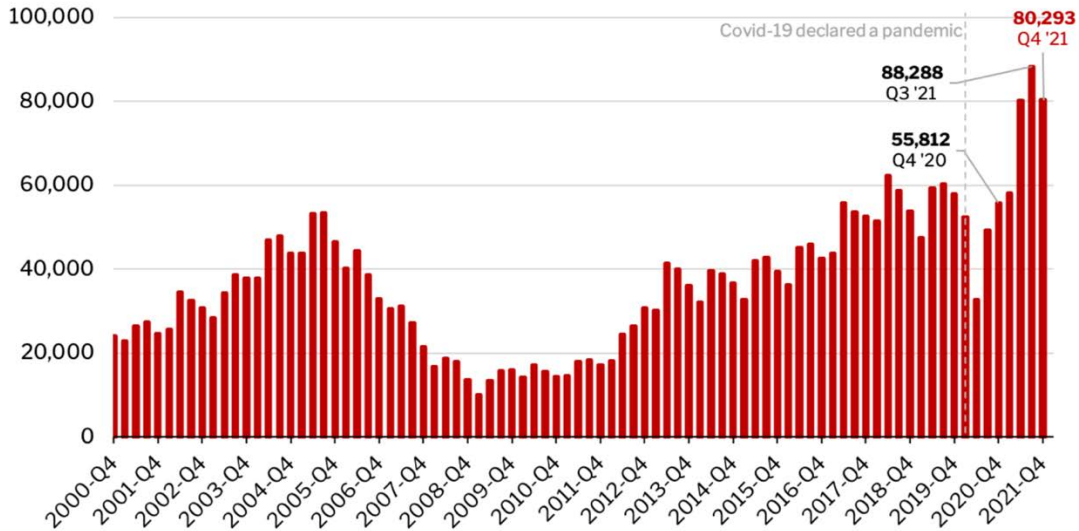
<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Route Fifty: Governments Begin Pushing Back on Investors Snatching Up Homes, 2022, <https://www.route-fifty.com/infrastructure/2022/07/while-investors-are-snatching-homes-governments-fight-save-properties-residents/368927/>

particularly acute instance of the commoditization of housing, one company packaged rental *debt* from 3,000 homes and sold it to investors for \$500 million,<sup>14</sup> similar to what happens with mortgage debt.

### Investors Home Purchases Just Shy of Record in Fourth Quarter of 2021

Number of U.S. homes bought by investors



Source: Redfin analysis of county records



In Berkeley, it is likely that some vacant units are in buildings purchased for the sole purpose of accruing more wealth, with no intention of housing tenants. For instance, there is one property owner who owns 9 units, across 4 properties of two or fewer units in the city—of these, 8 are listed as not available to rent. While the extent of this is unknown, applying a tax on vacant homes will discourage this practice that, in aggregate, raises rents and home prices for everyone else. The proposed Measure fulfills one of the key anti-speculation recommendations of the 2022 report by the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project (*Densifying Berkeley: Potential Impacts on Displacement and Equity*).

Using the assumptions made in the San Francisco Budget Analyst report on a prospective vacancy tax, and Berkeley Rent Board data on length of vacancies, it is estimated that Berkeley will generate between \$5.8 million and \$8.7 million in revenue annually and that several hundred vacant units could become occupied within two

<sup>14</sup> Tech Equity Collaborative: Sold to the Highest Bidder: How Tech is Cashing in on the American Dream, 2022, <https://techequitycollaborative.org/2022/06/29/sold-to-the-highest-bidder-how-tech-is-cashing-in-on-the-american-dream/>

Placing an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance on the November 8, 2022 Ballot	ACTION CALENDAR July 26, 2022
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years.<sup>15</sup> This is likely a conservative estimate as it only includes units that have been registered as NAR with the Berkeley Rent Board—other vacant units are not included. The Finance Department has confirmed that the methodology behind these numbers is valid and logical and will affirm them for the ballot statement.

POTENTIAL REVENUES FROM BERKELEY VACANCY TAX						
Applicable Units	Small Properties*		Large Properties		TOTAL	
	Year 1	Two + Years**	Year 1	Two + Years**	Year 1	Two + Years**
Years since implementation						
Units Subject to Tax	249	187	841	631	1090	818
Revenue	\$747,000	\$1,120,500	\$5,046,000	\$7,569,000	\$5,793,000	\$8,689,500

\*Excluding 38 single family homes owned by non-corporate owners of less than 3 single-family homes

\*\*Assumes 75% of buildings remain vacant after one year

Small properties have 1 - 2 units

Large properties have more than 2 units

Berkeley’s proposed vacancy tax is built off San Francisco’s 2022 proposed Empty Home Tax proposal. The San Francisco vacancy tax applies only to owners of properties with three or more units when at least one has been unoccupied for more than 182 days in a year. Single family homes and two-unit properties are exempt, and the vacancy tax increases for larger properties and units that have been empty for longer. The proposed vacancy tax for Berkeley would likewise be imposed when a unit is left vacant for more than 182 days in a calendar year, providing time extensions for units under active reconstruction or in probate. It will also contain the following exemptions:

- Owners of up to two single family homes and/or condominiums so long as they are owned by natural persons or family trusts. Single family homes and/or condominiums owned by corporations, real estate trusts, and LLCs would not be exempt. Additionally, single family homes with an ADU or JADU will be classified as “one unit”;
- Duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes where one unit is owner occupied and the owner indicates that another unit is not available to rent due to owner or family use for no compensation;
- A property of four or fewer units whose owner is over 65, makes under 80% of the Area Median Income, and resides in the property;
- Organizations that are exempt from paying property taxes in California, such as non-profit organizations and religious institutions;
- The Empty Homes Tax will be suspended if an eviction moratorium is in place in Berkeley.

<sup>15</sup> These estimates are calculated using Berkeley Rent Board data

The exemption for very low-income owners over the age of 65 has not been included in these estimates as only around 100 of all 30,000 Berkeley residences use this exemption for City parcel taxes. The Berkeley Department of Finance found that, given the low number of property owners who would qualify for and use this exemption, revenues will not be materially impacted.

The tax rate would vary between \$3,000 and \$6,000 depending on the type of unit. Non-exempt condos, duplexes, townhomes and single family homes would pay \$3,000 per year. Remaining units would pay \$6,000 annually. Both tiers of fees double, to \$6,000 and \$12,000 annually, respectively, for units vacant for more than two years.

The tax would go into effect on January 1, 2024, and a home will only be considered vacant if it remains vacant for at least 182 days of the year. As such, the vacancy tax provides time for property owners to return units to occupancy or inform the city that a property is exempt before any tax comes into effect.

The vacancy tax in Berkeley would have numerous benefits. It will almost immediately increase the City's housing stock while complimenting more time-consuming approval and construction processes. Further, the tax has the potential to bring hundreds of units online within a year and generate millions in affordable housing revenue as a byproduct. A vacancy tax will also disincentivize property owners from engaging in real estate speculation, which will help limit rent and housing price increases across the City. Finally, units that are occupied will be brought in line with the city's housing regulations.

The City has much data related to properties that assist in applying the vacancy tax. Measure MM requires owners to register partially covered units and Measure U1 taxes owners of more than four units. In addition, Berkeley's long-standing rent registration for fully covered units has provided the city with extensive data on the housing stock in the City.

The draft Measure is currently drafted as a general tax. If passed, funds would be placed into the general fund with the non-binding intention of putting all revenue into the Housing Trust Fund. The Housing Trust Fund supports the following activities:

- Construction of new affordable housing, including by providing pre-development to non-profit affordable housing developers, for households with an income of 80% or less of Area Median Income;
- The acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-unit buildings for affordable housing, and the operation of such buildings acquired and/or rehabilitated for households with an income of 80% or less of Area Median Income;
- The administration of the Empty Homes Tax and administration of the Housing Trust Fund.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The authors considered expanding the existing owner-occupied low-income senior exemption for properties of four or fewer units to all seniors regardless of income. This alternative would respond to the fact that certain seniors may have purchased property decades ago and may no longer be able rent units in the property. The City does not have specific data for properties of owner-occupied four or fewer units that are owned by seniors. However, according to census data, there are around 19,000 seniors in the city. Using the Rent Board's NAR data, it is reasonable to expect such an exemption would impact far fewer than 74 NAR units in buildings of four or fewer units estimated to be owned and occupied by seniors.

The authors did not include this alternative because there is already a similar exemption in Section 7.54.030 M. providing owners exemption for a unit that is kept vacant for use by owner or a family member for no compensation.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Existing buildings embody carbon. Maximizing utilization of existing units is a prudent use of embodied carbon.

**FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff time will be necessary for a legal review and to prepare a Council item placing the ordinance on the ballot. However, significant savings are anticipated as the ordinance and resolution are already drafted and included as part of this referral.

**CONTACT PERSON**

Councilmember Kate Harrison, Council District 4, 510-981-7140

## RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 7.54 TO THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO IMPOSE AN EXCISE TAX ON KEEPING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VACANT TO FUND GENERAL MUNICIPAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council has elected to submit to the voters at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election, a measure adding Chapter 7.54 to the Berkeley Municipal Code imposing an “Empty Homes Tax” on property owners who keep residential properties vacant, to fund general municipal services; and

WHEREAS, residential vacancies are an ongoing concern in Berkeley. According to the 2020 Decennial Census, 9% of Berkeley’s housing units, or a total of 4,725 units, sat vacant at the time of the Census; and

WHEREAS, of total vacancies, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board data from 2022 indicates that 1,128 fully or partially regulated units in buildings with more than two units have been classified by their owners as not available to rent. Returning these units to the housing market is a key strategy for ensuring long-term affordability; and

WHEREAS, prolonged vacancy restricts the supply of available housing units and runs counter to the City’s housing objectives. Prolonged vacancies can also decrease economic activity in neighborhoods and lead to blight; and

WHEREAS, the housing affordability crisis has created an urgent need to pay for additional services and programs including, but not limited to, construction of new affordable housing for households with a household income of 80% or less of Area Median Income, including by providing pre-development funding to non-profit affordable housing developers, and the acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-unit buildings for affordable housing, and the operation of such buildings acquired and/or rehabilitated; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley is also working to ensure all public funds available to build affordable housing are being maximized, from the City, Alameda County, State and Federal governments; and

WHEREAS, even with the addition of City, County, State, and Federal resources, Berkeley is unable to house all of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the increased costs of meeting the challenges of the housing crisis have impacted Berkeley’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the City needs new funds to pay for municipal services. The Empty Homes Tax is intended to disincentivize prolonged vacancies, thereby increasing the number of housing units available for occupancy, while also raising funds for municipal services,

including but not limited to constructing, acquiring, and rehabilitating affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to submit this measure to be placed upon the ballot at the November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election, consistent with the Council's Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, calling for a General Municipal Election to be consolidated with said statewide election; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that this resolution is hereby adopted and a ballot measure adding Chapter 7.54 to the Berkeley Municipal Code imposing an "Empty Homes Tax" on property owners who keep residential properties vacant, to fund general municipal services, shall be placed before the voters at the election on November 8, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to California Elections Code sections 10002 and 10403, this City Council does hereby call an election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, and requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors consolidate said election with the Statewide General Election on that same date in the manner and schedule established by Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, and submit the Measure to the qualified voters of the City at said consolidated election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council acknowledges that the consolidated election will be held and conducted in the manner prescribed in Elections Code Section 10418.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above enumerated measure requires a majority vote threshold for passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285 (b), the City Council hereby adopts the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285 (a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Ordinance measure shall appear and be printed upon the ballots to be used at said election as follows:

<b>CITY OF BERKELEY ORDINANCE</b>	
Shall the measure to tax property owners who keep residential units vacant more than 182 days per year, \$3,000 for each condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse vacant in the first year, increasing to \$6,000 for each subsequent year, and \$6,000 for all other residential units vacant in the first year, increasing to \$12,000 for each subsequent year, with exceptions, from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2034, estimated to generate between \$5,800,000 and \$8,700,000 annually, be adopted?	YES
	NO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the text of the Ordinance be shown as Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**Exhibits**

A: Text of Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. #,###-N.S.

ADDING CHAPTER 7.54 TO THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO IMPOSE AN  
EXCISE TAX ON KEEPING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VACANT TO FUND GENERAL  
MUNICIPAL SERVICES

BE IT ORDAINED by the people of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 7.54 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

**Chapter 7.54**

**Empty Homes Tax**

**Sections:**

**7.54.010 Short Title.**

**7.54.020 Findings and Purpose.**

**7.54.030 Definitions.**

**7.54.040 Imposition of Tax.**

**7.54.050 Returns; Presumption of Vacancy.**

**7.54.060 Exemptions and Exclusions.**

**7.54.070 Administration; Penalties.**

**7.54.080 Housing Trust Fund; Deposit of Proceeds.**

**7.54.090 Technical Assistance to the City Manager; Annual Reports.**

**7.54.100 Authorization and Limitation on Issuance of Bonds.**

**7.54.110 Severability.**

**7.54.120 Savings Clause.**

**7.54.010 Short Title.**

This Chapter shall be known as the “Empty Homes Tax Ordinance,” and the tax it imposes shall be known as the “Empty Homes Tax.”

**7.54.020 Findings and purpose.**

The People of the City of Berkeley find and declare as follows:

A. Residential vacancies are an ongoing concern in Berkeley. According to the 2020 Decennial Census, 9% of Berkeley’s housing units, or a total of 4,725 units, sat vacant at the time of the Census.

B. Of total vacancies, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board data from 2022 indicates that 1,128 fully or partially regulated units in buildings with more than two units have been classified by their owners as not available to rent. Returning these units to the housing market is a key strategy for ensuring long-term affordability.

C. Prolonged vacancy restricts the supply of available housing units and runs counter to the City’s housing objectives. Prolonged vacancies can also decrease economic activity in neighborhoods and lead to blight.

D. The housing affordability crisis has created an urgent need to pay for additional services and programs including, but not limited to, construction of new affordable housing for households with a household income of 80% or less of Area Median Income, including by providing pre-development funding to non-profit affordable housing developers, and the acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-unit buildings for affordable housing, and the operation of such buildings acquired and/or rehabilitated.

E. Berkeley is also working to ensure all public funds available to build affordable housing are being maximized, from the City, Alameda County, State and Federal governments.

F. Even with the addition of City, County, State, and Federal resources, Berkeley is unable to house all of its residents.

G. The increased costs of meeting the challenges of the housing crisis have impacted Berkeley's General Fund.

H. The City needs new funds to pay for municipal services. The Empty Homes Tax is intended to disincentivize prolonged vacancies, thereby increasing the number of housing units available for occupancy, while also raising funds for municipal services, including but not limited to constructing, acquiring, and rehabilitating affordable housing.

#### **7.54.030 Definitions.**

Unless otherwise defined in this Chapter, the terms used in this Chapter shall have the meanings given to them in Chapters 2.44 and 9.04, of the Municipal Code, as amended from time to time. For purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

A. "Affiliate" means an entity under common majority ownership or common control, whether that ownership or control is direct or indirect, with any other person or entity, including but not limited to a person or entity that majority owns or controls, or is majority owned or controlled by, any other person or entity.

B. "Building Permit Application Period" means the period following the date that an application for a building permit for repair, rehabilitation, or construction with respect to a Residential Unit is filed with the City through the date the Planning Department or its successor agency grants or denies that application, not to exceed one year. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if more than one building permit application is filed by or on behalf of one or more persons in the Owner's Group for the same Residential Unit, the Building Permit Application Period shall mean only the applicable period following the date the first application is filed with the City by or on behalf of anyone in the Owner's Group. In the case of an owner qualifying for the Disaster Period in subsection D, the Building Permit Application Period may be extended beyond one year if the owner makes a good faith effort, as determined by the building official, to obtain a building permit.

C. "Rehabilitation Period" means the two-year period following the date that the City issues a building permit for repair, or rehabilitation, with respect to a Residential Unit, provided that if the City issues multiple building permits to or for the benefit of one or more persons in the Owner's Group for the same Residential Unit, the Rehabilitation

Period shall mean only the two-year period following the issuance of the first building permit to or for the benefit of anyone in the Owner's Group.

D. "Disaster Period" means the two-year period following the date that a Residential Unit was severely damaged and made uninhabitable or unusable due to fire, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event.

E. "Homeowners' Exemption Period" means the period during which a Residential Unit is the principal place of residence of any owner of that Residential Unit and for which such owner validly has claimed either the homeowners' property tax exemption under Section 218 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or the disabled veterans' exemption under Section 205.5 of that Code, as those sections may be amended from time to time.

F. "Lease Period" means the period during which any owner of a Residential Unit or any person in the Owner's Group of that owner leases that Residential Unit to one or more tenants under a bona fide lease intended for occupancy, but not including any lease or rental of that Residential Unit to anyone in the Owner's Group or to travelers, vacationers, or other transient occupants.

G. "New Construction Period" means the one-year period following the date that the City issues a certificate of final completion and occupancy with respect to a Residential Unit in a newly erected building or a newly added Residential Unit in an existing building.

H. "Owner Death Period" means, with respect to a co-owner or decedent's estate, heirs, or beneficiaries, the period during which a Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused because of the death of any owner of a Residential Unit who was the sole occupant of that Residential Unit immediately prior to such owner's death, provided that such period shall not exceed the longer of two years or the period during which the Residential Unit is subject to the authority of a probate court.

I. "Owner In Care Period" means the period during which a Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused because all occupants of the Residential Unit who used that Residential Unit as their principal residence are residing in a hospital, long term or supportive care facility, medical care or treatment facility, or other similar facility.

J. "Owner's Group" means for each owner of a Residential Unit, with respect to each Residential Unit, the owner, any current or former co-owner, and any Related Person or Affiliate of the owner or any current or former co-owner.

K. "Related Person" means a spouse, domestic partner, child, parent, or sibling.

L. "Residential Unit" means a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is designed as separate living quarters, other than units occupied or intended for occupancy primarily by travelers, vacationers, or other transient occupants. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have a kitchen and direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. For purposes of this Chapter, a Residential Unit shall not include a unit in a currently operational nursing home, residential care facility, or other similar facility, or any unit that is fully exempt from property tax under the welfare exemption under Section 214(g) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code, as may be amended from time to time.

M. "Vacancy Exclusion Period" means the Building Permit Application Period, Rehabilitation Period, Disaster Period, Homeowners' Exemption Period, Lease Period, New Construction Period, Owner Death Period, or Owner In Care Period, or where the owner has affirmatively indicated through filings with the Rent Board that a single unit in an owner-occupied duplex, triplex, or quadplex is being used by the owner or a family member for no consideration.

N. "Vacant" means unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused, for more than 182 days, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive, in a calendar year.

#### **7.54.040 Imposition of Tax.**

A. Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, the City imposes an annual Empty Homes Tax on each person that owns a Residential Unit for keeping that Residential Unit Vacant.

B. The tax on an owner keeping a Residential Unit Vacant shall be as follows:

1. For the first calendar year that the Residential Unit is Vacant, the tax shall be \$3,000 per vacant condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse unit under separate residential unit ownership and \$6,000 per any other vacant Residential Unit.

2. For the second consecutive calendar year and each subsequent calendar year thereafter that the Residential Unit is Vacant, the tax shall be \$6,000 per vacant condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse unit under separate residential unit ownership and \$12,000 per any other vacant Residential Unit.

C. The rates set forth in subsection B. of this Section shall be adjusted annually in accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index: All Urban Consumers for the San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose Area for All Items as reported by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or any successor to that index, as of December 31st of the preceding year, beginning with the 2025 calendar year.

D. The Empty Homes Tax shall be payable by the owner or owners of the Residential Unit kept Vacant. Not more than one tax per Residential Unit shall be imposed under this Section for a calendar year by reason of multiple liable owners. If there are multiple liable owners, each owner shall be jointly and severally liable for the tax, which shall be the highest amount of tax payable by any owner for that Residential Unit for that calendar year.

E. A person shall be liable for the Empty Homes Tax only if that person, while owning a Residential Unit, has kept or is deemed to have kept that Residential Unit unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused, for more than 182 days, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive, in a calendar year. In determining whether an owner has kept a Residential Unit Vacant during a calendar year, days within any Vacancy Exclusion Period shall be disregarded if that Vacancy Exclusion Period applies to that owner for that Residential Unit, as shall days in which the Residential Unit was not owned by the owner, but the owner shall be deemed to have kept the Residential Unit unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused on all other days that such Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused during the calendar year.

F. The Empty Homes Tax shall take effect on January 1, 2024. The Empty Homes Tax shall expire on December 31, 2034, unless reauthorized by the voters prior to such date.

G. The Empty Homes Tax shall be suspended for as long as the Berkeley COVID-19 Residential Eviction Moratorium is in effect pursuant to BMC 13.110 and shall resume upon expiration.

**7.54.050 Returns; Presumption of Vacancy.**

A. Each person that is required to pay the Empty Homes Tax shall file a return in the form and manner prescribed by the City Manager.

B. Each person that owns a Residential Unit at any time during a calendar year and that is not exempt from the Empty Homes Tax with respect to that Residential Unit under any one of subsections A. through E. of Section 7.54.060 shall file a return for that calendar year in the form and manner prescribed by the City Manager. A person that fails to file the return required by this subsection B. for a Residential Unit shall be presumed to have kept that Residential Unit Vacant for the calendar year for which such return is required. The person who fails to file the required return may rebut the presumption by producing satisfactory evidence that such person did not keep the Residential Unit Vacant during the calendar year for which the return is required.

**7.54.060 Exemptions and Exclusions.**

A. For only so long as and to the extent that the City is prohibited by the Constitution or laws of the State of California or the Constitution or laws of the United States from imposing the Empty Homes Tax on any person that person shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax.

B. Any organization that is exempt from income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax.

C. The City, the State of California, and any county, municipal corporation, district, or other political subdivision of the State shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax, except where any constitutional or statutory immunity from taxation is waived or is not applicable.

D. A natural person or family trust that is the owner of no more than two Single Family Dwellings or condominiums shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax for Single Family Dwelling Residential Units or condominiums. For purposes of this subsection D. only, "Single Family Dwelling" is inclusive of a single accessory dwelling unit and a junior accessory dwelling unit. Additionally, for the purposes of this subsection D. only, the "owner" of such Rental Property shall not be any of the following set forth under California Civil Code Section 1947.12(d)(5)(A)(i)-(iii) ("AB 1482"): a real estate investment trust, as defined in Section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code; a corporation; or a limited liability company.

E. The tax imposed by this Chapter shall not apply to a property of four or fewer units which is owner-occupied and whose owner (1) is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and

(2) whose combined family income, from all sources for the previous year, is at or below the income level qualifying as eighty percent (80%) of area median income for a Family of such size under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.A. Sections 1437 et. seq.), or successor legislation, for such year. Any taxpayer claiming the exemption under this section shall be required to demonstrate their entitlement thereto annually by submitting an application and supporting documentation to the City Manager or their designee in the manner and at the time established in regulations and/or guidelines hereafter promulgated by the City Manager subject to review by the City Council in its discretion. Such applications shall be on forms provided by the City Manager, or their designee, and shall provide and/or be accompanied by such information as the City Manager shall require, including but not limited to, federal income tax returns and W-2 forms.

#### **7.54.070 Administration; Penalties**

A. The City Manager shall enforce the provisions of this Chapter and may prescribe, adopt, and enforce rules and regulations relating to the administration and enforcement of this chapter. The City Manager shall cause all moneys collected pursuant to this chapter to be deposited to the credit of the general fund.

B. The tax required by this Chapter is delinquent if not received by the tax administrator on or before February 28 of each year.

C. Any person who fails to pay the tax required by this Chapter to the City or any amount of tax required to be collected and paid to the City within the time required shall pay a penalty of ten percent of the tax or amount of the tax, in addition to the tax or amount of tax, plus interest at the rate of one percent per month from the date on which the tax or the amount of tax required to be collected became due and payable to the City until the date of payment.

D. Transactions with the principal purpose of avoiding or evading all or a portion of the Empty Homes Tax shall be disregarded for purposes of determining the amount of the Empty Homes Tax and whether the Empty Homes Tax is due. Any owner determined to have engaged in one or more transactions with the principal purpose of avoiding or evading all or a portion of the Empty Homes Tax shall be liable for the Empty Homes Tax and also liable for a penalty in an amount equal to the Empty Homes Tax.

E. Any tax required to be paid by an owner under the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed a debt owed by the owner to the City. Any person owing money to the City under the provisions of this chapter shall be liable to an action brought in the name of the City for the recovery of such amount, along with any collection costs incurred by the City as a result of the person's noncompliance with this chapter, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, plus interest and penalties as herein provided.

#### **7.54.080 Housing Trust Fund; Deposit of Proceeds.**

A. The Council may deposit any portion of the general revenue purposes proceeds generated by the Empty Homes Tax into the Housing Trust Fund, subject to its operating rules.

**7.54.090 Technical Assistance to the City Manager; Annual Reports.**

A. The Department of Public Works, the Planning Department, and the Rent Board, shall provide technical assistance to the City Manager, upon the City Manager's request, to administer the Empty Homes Tax.

B. Commencing with a report filed no later than February 15, 2026, covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the City Manager shall file annually with the Council, by February 15 of each year, a report containing the amount of monies collected from the tax during the prior fiscal year.

**7.54.100 Authorization and Limitation on Issuance of Bonds.**

The City shall be authorized to pledge revenues generated by the Empty Homes Tax to the repayment of limited tax bonds or other forms of indebtedness authorized under this Section. The Council shall by ordinance or resolution, as applicable, establish the terms of any limited tax bonds or other forms of indebtedness authorized hereby, including but not limited to, the amount of the issue, date, covenants, denominations, interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, tax status, manner of sale, and such other particulars as are necessary or desirable.

**7.54.110 Severability.**

If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The People of the City of Berkeley hereby declare that they would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional.

**7.54.120 Savings Clause.**

No section, clause, part, or provision of this Chapter shall be construed as requiring the payment of any tax that would be in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of the Constitution or laws of the State of California.

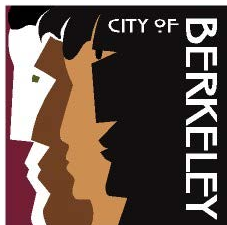
Section 2. Increase Appropriations Limit. Pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII B and applicable laws, for four years from November 8, 2022, the appropriations limit for the City shall be increased by the aggregate sum collected by the levy of the general tax imposed under this ordinance.

Section 3. California Environmental Quality Act Requirements. This Ordinance is



exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., under, including without limitation, Public Resources Code section 21065 and CEQA Guidelines sections 15378(b)(4) and 15061(b)(3), as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity authorized herein may have a significant effect on the environment and pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080, subdivision (b)(8), and CEQA Guidelines section 15273 as the approval of government revenues to fund existing services.

Section 4. General Tax; Majority Vote Requirement. This Ordinance imposes a general tax for general revenue purposes and shall be effective only if approved by a majority of the voters voting thereon.



Kate Harrison  
Vice Mayor, District 4

## REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL

**Meeting Date:** July 12, 2022

**Item #:** 16

**Item Description:** **Placing a Special Tax Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot to Tax Vacant Residential Units to Fund Construction, Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Affordable Housing**

**Submitted by:** Vice Mayor Harrison

This revised agenda material regarding the Empty Homes Tax includes an updated background document and ordinance for informational purposes, reflecting Council comments and feedback at the May 31 Council meeting.

Pursuant to the May 31 referral to the City Attorney and City Manager, Vice Mayor Harrison continues to work with the departments to prepare a finalized and legally sound draft for Council consideration before the Council recess.

*Summary of substantial changes in the updated measure:*

- Expand Vacancy Exclusion Period to include instances where the owner has affirmatively indicated through filings with the Rent Board that a single unit in an owner-occupied duplex is being used by owner or family members for no consideration;
- Clarify that the tax shall expire on January 1, 2034, unless reauthorized by voters prior to such date.
- Add condominiums to the natural person/family trust exemption;
- Add exemption for own-occupied properties of three or fewer units where the owner (1) is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and (2) whose combined family income, from all sources for the previous year, is at or below the income level qualifying as eighty percent (80%) of area median income.
- Added clarification that the tax would not apply during periods of emergency.

*Summary of changes in the background document:*

- Information showing that a significant number of vacant properties in Berkeley are entirely or mostly vacant. This provides further evidence that much of the vacancies in the city are not due to natural turnover;
- Data showing that institutional investor purchases of homes are at an all-time high nationally. In Oakland and SF 13% and 18% were acquired by institutional investors respectively and an example from Berkeley added;
- Updated revenue projections to a range of \$4.8 million and \$7.2 million, excluding units that indicated to be for use by owner. Clarify that this is likely a conservative estimate given only units that have registered as not available to rent (NAR) with the rent board are used;
- Exemptions detailed in the above section;
- Information clarifying the long period to prepare for the vacancy tax, as it will not take effect until 2024 and will only be applied at the end of that calendar year if units remain vacant.



Kate Harrison  
Vice Mayor, District 4

ACTION CALENDAR  
July ~~12~~ 14, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Vice Mayor Kate Harrison

Subject: Placing a Special Tax Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot to Tax Vacant Residential Units to Fund Construction, Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Affordable Housing Refer to the City Attorney and City Manager an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance for the November 8, 2022 Ballot

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RECOMMENDATION

~~Refer to the City Attorney and City Manager to prepare and submit a resolution~~  
Submitting an Ordinance adding Chapter 7.54 to the Berkeley Municipal Code taxing housing units that 1) have remained vacant for more than one year, 2) are not under permitted renovation or in probate and 3) are in multi-unit buildings or are single family homes or condominiums whose owners are not natural persons or family trusts to a vote of the electors at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election.

CURRENT SITUATION AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City of Berkeley is experiencing a historic housing crisis. Between 2005 and 2019 gross median rent increased by over 50%. This has been particularly burdensome in a city where 58% of residents are renters.<sup>1</sup> While in recent years Berkeley has met its RHNA goals for those earning above 120% Area Median Income (AMI), it has failed to build sufficient housing for everyone else. Further, housing at the >120% AMI category has not significantly improved affordability for lower income residents and has increased displacement in low-income neighborhoods.<sup>2</sup> The extraordinary gap between the housing needs of residents and the availability of housing can only be bridged through the use of numerous policy interventions, including a vacancy tax intended to incentivize owners of housing property to bring units back on the market and discourage speculation.

In a recent poll of top policy priorities among Berkeley voters, increasing affordable housing for low-income and homeless residents received by far the most support, at

<sup>1</sup> Anti-Eviction Mapping Project: Densifying Berkeley: Potential Impacts on Displacement and Equity, 2022, <https://www.berkeleyside.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/AEMP-UpzoningReport-Draft4-3.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Refer to the City Attorney and City Manager an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance for the November 8, 2022 Ballot	ACTION CALENDAR July <del>no</del> -124, 2022
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58%.<sup>3</sup> While Berkeley is actively building new affordable units, siting and constructing new units is a longer-term process, and it is incumbent on the City to maximize the availability of *existing units* that are already built and could be available for rent or sale.

Unfortunately, Alameda County's housing remains unaffordable for many of its residents, and this burden does not fall evenly across income and racial groups. While 47% of renters in Alameda County are rent burdened, the rate is 58% for Black renters and 87% for extremely low-income renters.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, as this crisis continues to unfold, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board data indicates that 1,128 fully or partially regulated<sup>5</sup> units have been classified by their owners as not available to rent (NAR).<sup>6</sup> Around 40% of the 1,128 NAR units are in properties that are completely vacant, and almost 80% of NAR units are in properties that are half or more empty. —A few of these are actively being renovated but the majority are not. Many have not been occupied for some time or actually are rented but not reported as being so to the Rent Board. Based on a review of Rent Board data and Google Street View, approximately 100 of these units are in buildings that are entirely vacant and dilapidated. This contributes to neighborhood blight and requires costly vector control and fire inspections. Thus, much of the vacancies in the city are not due to natural turnover.

Oakland and Vancouver, both experiencing their own challenges with housing unaffordability, use a vacant housing tax to encourage owners of vacant units to find tenants or sell to those who will. In 2016, Vancouver passed a measure that placed a surcharge on the assessed value of vacant units. Within two years of its implementation, 21.2% of vacant units returned to occupancy and the city generated \$46 million Canadian dollars. Oakland enacted a vacant property tax of \$3,000 to \$6,000, varying based on property type. In its first year of implementation, the city

<sup>3</sup> City of Berkeley Community Survey, Live Phone and Text to Online, April 28-May 3, 2022, <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-05-31%20Item%2037%20Discussion%20and%20Direction%20Regarding.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> California Housing Partnership Housing Needs Dashboard, 2019, <https://chpc.net/housingneeds/?view=37.405074.-119.26758,5&county=California,Alameda&group=housingneed&chart=shortfall|current,cost-burden|current,cost-burden-re|current,homelessness,historical-rents,vacancy,asking-rents|2022,budgets|2021,funding|current,state-funding,lihtc|2010:2021:historical,rhna-progress,multifamily-production>

<sup>5</sup> Partially regulated units are only partially covered by the rent ordinance, while fully regulated are completely covered by the ordinance

<sup>6</sup> Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board. There are also units classified as "vacant", for which property owners are actively seeking tenants.

Refer to the City Attorney and City Manager an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance for the November 8, 2022 Ballot

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collected over \$7 million in revenue.<sup>7</sup> San Francisco is actively considering placing a vacant housing tax measure on the November ballot.

Addressing vacant units is a critical part of addressing Berkeley's housing crisis. Every year that a significant percentage of Berkeley's housing stock remains vacant exacerbates the housing affordability and displacement crises. This item includes a modified version of San Francisco's proposed tax adapted to Berkeley. It is in the public interest to refer to the City Attorney and City Manager to prepare and submit a resolution taxing empty homes that would be submitted to a vote of the electors at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election.

**BACKGROUND**

Berkeley's housing challenges are significant, requiring numerous policy interventions across many years to remediate. However, of the units that were built as part of the 2023 RHNA goals, the majority have been unaffordable to most residents.<sup>8</sup>

Income Category	Total RHNA (2014- 2023)	Net Units Created (2015- 2020)	Balance Remaining	Percent of RHNA Achieved
Very Low Income	532	173	359	32.5%
Low Income	442	60	382	13.6%
Moderate Income	584	0	584	0%
Above Moderate Income	1,401	2,476	0	176.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,959</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>55.2%</b>

In 2019 the City's median rent was \$3,165, making it affordable to only households earning over \$130k annually. Median rents have also increased by greater than 50% between 2005 and 2019. Rising rents in the city are of particular concern given that the City has a high renter population, and the impact of high rents falls disproportionately on BIPOC residents<sup>9</sup>.

**Percent Renter Occupancy vs. Percent Berkeley Population, 2019<sup>10</sup>**

<sup>7</sup> San Francisco Budget and Legislative Analyst's Office: Residential Vacancies in San Francisco, 2022, [https://56a418ca-94d2-476c-9a45-f491ca4a0387.usrfiles.com/ugd/56a418\\_74b82803e4fb434bb1b13010828a4c01.pdf](https://56a418ca-94d2-476c-9a45-f491ca4a0387.usrfiles.com/ugd/56a418_74b82803e4fb434bb1b13010828a4c01.pdf)

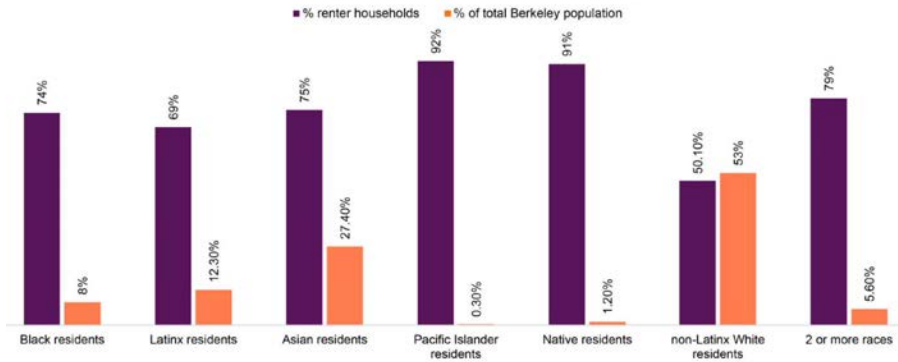
<sup>8</sup> 2020 General Plan APR: City of Berkeley, Table 2

<sup>9</sup> Anti-Eviction Mapping Project: Densifying Berkeley: Potential Impacts on Displacement and Equity, 2022, <https://www.berkeleyaside.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/AEMP-UpzoningReport-Draft4-3.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

Refer to the City Attorney and City Manager an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance for the November 8, 2022 Ballot

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Fortunately, the City of Berkeley has taken numerous steps in recent years to tackle its affordable housing crisis, including issuing a \$100 million affordable housing bond, permitting Berkeley residents (outside of the fire zones) to receive near-automatic approval to build certain types of ADUs, and rezoning BART stations to allow significant affordable housing. A potential 2022 affordable housing bond is under consideration.

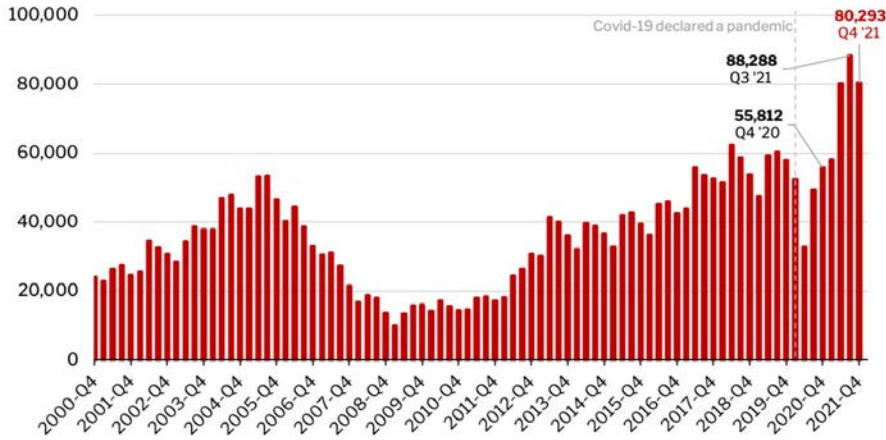
While these efforts will likely dramatically increase the supply of housing in Berkeley, it will take years for the City to reap the benefits. Developments still need to be proposed, approved, and then constructed. Berkeley’s large supply of vacant homes presents a unique opportunity for the City to immediately provide new units to renters, as there are no approval processes or lengthy construction timelines.

Additionally, hot housing markets often attract real estate speculation. [Redfin data shows that 13% of homes in Oakland were purchased by an institutional investor or business in the fourth quarter of 2021, a 16.9% increase over the year before. In San Francisco, 18% were acquired by institutional investors. Nationally, investor purchases of homes are at an all-time high.](#)

Refer to the City Attorney and City Manager an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance for the November 8, 2022 Ballot

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**Investors Home Purchases Just Shy of Record in Fourth Quarter of 2021**  
Number of U.S. homes bought by investors



Source: Redfin analysis of county records



In Berkeley, it is likely that some vacant units are in buildings purchased for the sole purpose of accruing more wealth, with no intention of housing tenants. An example is one property owner who owns 9 units, across 4 properties of two or fewer units in the city—of these, 8 are listed as not available to rent. While the extent of this is unknown, applying a tax on vacant homes will discourage this practice that, in aggregate, raises rents and home prices for everyone else. The proposed Measure fulfills one of the key anti-speculation recommendations of the 2022 report by the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project (*Densifying Berkeley: Potential Impacts on Displacement and Equity*).

Using the assumptions made in the San Francisco Budget Analyst report on a prospective vacancy tax, and Berkeley Rent Board data on length of vacancies, it is estimated that Berkeley will generate between \$4.8 million and \$7.2 million in revenue annually and that several hundred vacant units could become occupied within two years.<sup>11</sup> This is likely a conservative estimate as it only includes units that have been registered as NAR with the Berkeley Rent Board—other vacant units are not included. Revenues projected here assume that units for owner use are predominately in one and two unit buildings, therefore, we are only calculating likely revenues from properties with three or more units.

<sup>11</sup> The ~~se~~ low-end estimates are calculated by using Berkeley Rent Board data



Refer to the City Attorney and City Manager an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance for the November 8, 2022 Ballot

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POTENTIAL REVENUES FROM BERKELEY VACANCY TAX						
Applicable Units Years since Impelmentation	Properties with 3 or more units*		Properties with 4 or more units		Properties with 5 or more units	
	Year 1	Two + Years**	Year 1	Two + Years**	Year 1	Two + Years**
Units Subject to Tax	806	605	650	488	534	401
Revenue	\$4,836,000	\$7,254,000	\$3,900,000	\$5,850,000	\$3,204,000	\$4,806,000

\*Excluding 322 "Owner use" units (for storage, family, friends) distributed between 1, 2 and 3 unit buildings  
\*\*Assumes 75% of buildings remain vacant after one year

Berkeley’s proposed vacancy tax is built off San Francisco’s 2022 proposed Empty Home Tax proposal. The San Francisco vacancy tax applies only to owners of buildings with three or more units when at least one has been unoccupied for more than 182 days in a year. Single family homes and two-unit properties are exempt, and the vacancy tax increases for larger properties and units that have been empty for longer. The proposed vacancy tax for Berkeley would instead be imposed after a year of vacancy, providing time extensions for units under active reconstruction or in probate. It will also contain the following exemptions:

- Owners of up to two single family homes and/or condominiums so long as they are owned by natural persons or family trusts. Single family homes and/or condominiums, owned by corporations, real estate trusts, and LLCs would not be exempt. Additionally, single family homes with an ADU or JADU will be classified as “one unit” for the purposes of determining how many units are owned.
- Duplexes where one unit is owner occupied if the owner indicates that the other unit is not available to rent
- A property of three or fewer units whose owner is over 65, makes under 80% of the Area Median Income, and resides in the property,
- Organizations that are exempt from paying property taxes in California, such as non-profit organizations and religious institutions
- The Empty Homes Tax will be suspended if an eviction moratorium is in place in Berkeley,

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-The tax rate would vary between \$3,000 and \$6,000 depending on the type of unit. Condos, duplexes, townhomes and Single Family Homes not exempt as described above would pay \$3,000 per year. Remaining units would pay \$6,000 annually. Both tiers of fees double, to \$6,000 and \$12,000 annually, respectively, for units vacant for more than two years.

The tax would go into effect on January 1, 2024, and a home will only be considered vacant if it remains vacant for the entire year. As such, the vacancy tax provides a long

Refer to the City Attorney and City Manager an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance for the November 8, 2022 Ballot	ACTION CALENDAR July <del>no</del> -124, 2022
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runway for property owners to return units to occupancy or inform the city that a property is exempt before any tax comes into effect.

The vacancy tax in Berkeley would have numerous benefits. It will almost immediately increase the City's housing stock while complimenting more time-consuming approval and construction processes. Further, the tax has the potential to bring hundreds of units online within a year and generate millions in affordable housing revenue as a byproduct. A vacancy tax will also disincentivize property owners from engaging in real estate speculation, which will help limit rent and housing price increases across the City. Finally, units that are actually occupied will be brought in line with the city's housing regulations.

The draft Measure is currently drafted as a special tax. If passed, Council and City would be required to spend proceeds as specified. While the primary purpose of the proposed tax is to bring vacant units back into the housing market, the proposed Measure includes a Housing Trust Fund supporting the following activities:

- Construction of new affordable housing, including by providing pre-development to non-profit affordable housing developers, for households with an income of 80% or less of Area Median Income;
- The acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-unit buildings for affordable housing, and the operation of such buildings acquired and/or rehabilitated for households with an income of 80% or less of Area Median Income;
- The administration of the Empty Homes Tax and administration of the Housing Trust Fund.

The referral calls on the Author to submit the measure to the City Attorney for legal review.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Existing buildings embody carbon. Maximizing utilization of existing units is a prudent use of embodied carbon.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time will be necessary for a legal review and to prepare a Council item placing the ordinance on the ballot. However, significant savings are anticipated as the ordinance and resolution are already drafted and included as part of this referral.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kate Harrison, Council District 4, 510-981-7140

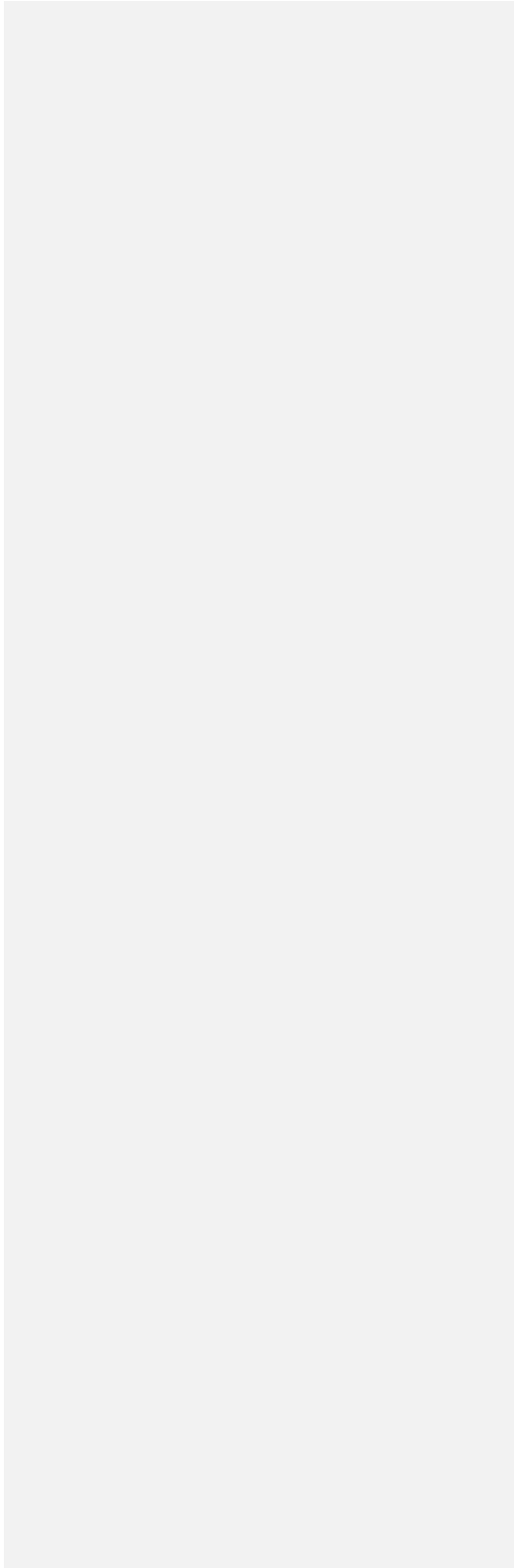
#### Attachments:

- 1: Draft Resolution

Placing an Empty Homes Tax Ordinance on the November 8, 2022 Ballot

ACTION CALENDAR  
May 31, 2022

Exhibit A: Draft Text of Measure



RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE AN ORDINANCE ADDING  
CHAPTER 7.54 TO THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TAXING EMPTY HOMES ON  
THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 BALLOT

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council has elected to submit to the voters at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election, a measure adding Chapter 7.54 to the Berkeley Municipal Code taxing empty homes; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10002 and 10403 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is requested to consolidate the City of Berkeley General Municipal Election with the Statewide General Election to be held November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Housing Needs Assessment requires the City of Berkeley to permit the construction of 3,854 affordable housing units in the next eight years.

WHEREAS, the Council desires to submit this measure to be placed upon the ballot at said consolidated election.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above enumerated measure requires a two-thirds vote threshold for passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285 (b), the City Council hereby adopts the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285 (a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Ordinance measure shall appear and be printed upon the ballots to be used at said election as follows:

CITY OF BERKELEY ORDINANCE	
Shall the measure <input type="checkbox"/>	YES
	NO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the text of the Ordinance be shown as Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Exhibits  
A: Text of Ordinance

Exhibit A

ORDINANCE NO. #,###-N.S.

ADDING CHAPTER 7.54 TO THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO TAX EMPTY HOMES

BE IT ORDAINED by the people of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 7.54 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

**Chapter 7.54**

**Empty Homes Tax**

**Sections:**

**7.54.010 Short Title.**

**7.54.020 Findings and Purpose.**

**7.54.030 Definitions.**

**7.54.040 Imposition of Tax.**

**7.54.050 Returns; Presumption of Vacancy.**

**7.54.060 Exemptions and Exclusions.**

**7.54.070 Administration; Penalties.**

**7.54.080 Housing Trust Fund; Deposit of Proceeds.**

**7.54.090 Expenditure of Proceeds.**

**7.54.100 Technical Assistance to the Finance Department.**

**7.54.110 Authorization and Limitation on Issuance of Bonds**

**7.54.120 Amendment of Ordinance.**

**7.54.130 Severability.**

**7.54.140 Savings Clause.**

**7.54.010 Short Title.**

This Chapter shall be known as the "Empty Homes Tax Ordinance," and the tax it imposes shall be known as the "Empty Homes Tax."

**7.54.020 Findings and purpose.**

The Council of the City of Berkeley finds and declares as follows:

A. Residential vacancies are an ongoing concern in Berkeley. According to the 2020 Decennial Census, 9% of Berkeley's housing units, or a total of 4,725 units, sit vacant.

B. Of total vacancies, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board data from 2022 indicates that 1,128 fully or partially regulated units in buildings with more than two units have been classified by their owners as not available to rent. Returning these units to the housing market is a key strategy for ensuring long-term affordability.

C. Prolonged vacancy restricts the supply of available housing units and runs counter to the City's housing objectives. Prolonged vacancies can also decrease economic activity in neighborhoods and lead to blight.

D. The Empty Homes Tax is intended to disincentivize prolonged vacancies, thereby increasing the number of housing units available for occupancy, while also raising funds for rent subsidies and affordable housing.

#### **7.54.030 Definitions.**

Unless otherwise defined in this Chapter, the terms used in this Chapter shall have the meanings given to them in Chapter 2.44 and 9.04, of the Municipal Code, as amended from time to time. For purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

A. "Affiliate" means a person under common majority ownership or common control, whether that ownership or control is direct or indirect, with any other person, including but not limited to a person that majority owns or controls, or is majority owned or controlled by, any other person.

B. "Building Permit Application Period" means the period following the date that an application for a building permit for repair, rehabilitation, or construction with respect to a Residential Unit is filed with the City through the date the Planning Department or its successor agency grants or denies that application, not to exceed one year.

Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if more than one building permit application is filed by or on behalf of one or more persons in the Owner's Group for the same Residential Unit, the Building Permit Application Period shall mean only the applicable period following the date the first application is filed with the City by or on behalf of anyone in the Owner's Group. In the case of an owner qualifying for the Disaster Period in subsection D., the Building Permit Application Period may be extended beyond one year if the owner makes a good faith effort, as determined by the building official, to obtain a building permit.

C. "Rehabilitation Period" means the two-year period following the date that the City issues a building permit for repair, or rehabilitation, with respect to a Residential Unit, provided that if the City issues multiple building permits to or for the benefit of one or more persons in the Owner's Group for the same Residential Unit, the Rehabilitation Period shall mean only the two-year period following the issuance of the first building permit to or for the benefit of anyone in the Owner's Group.

D. "Disaster Period" means the two-year period following the date that a Residential Unit was severely damaged and made uninhabitable or unusable due to fire, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event.

~~E. "Accessory Dwelling Unit," and "Single Family Dwelling," shall have the same meanings as defined in Section 23F.04.010.~~

~~F-E.~~ "Homeowners' Exemption Period" means the period during which a Residential Unit is the principal place of residence of any owner of that Residential Unit and for which such owner validly has claimed either the homeowners' property tax exemption under Section 218 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or the disabled veterans' exemption under Section 205.5 of that Code, as those sections may be amended from time to time.

~~G-F.~~ "Lease Period" means the period during which any owner of a Residential Unit or any person in the Owner's Group of that owner leases that Residential Unit to one or more tenants under a bona fide lease intended for occupancy, but not including any lease or rental of that Residential Unit to anyone in the Owner's Group or to travelers, vacationers, or other transient occupants.

H.G. “New Construction Period” means the one-year period following the date that the City issues a certificate of final completion and occupancy with respect to a Residential Unit in a newly erected building or a newly added Residential Unit in an existing building.

H.H. “Owner Death Period” means, with respect to a co-owner or decedent’s estate, heirs, or beneficiaries, the period during which a Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused because of the death of any owner of a Residential Unit who was the sole occupant of that Residential Unit immediately prior to such owner’s death, provided that such period shall not exceed the longer of two years or the period during which the Residential Unit is subject to the authority of a probate court.

H.I. “Owner In Care Period” means the period during which a Residential Unit is unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused because all occupants of the Residential Unit who used that Residential Unit as their principal residence are residing in a hospital, long term or supportive care facility, medical care or treatment facility, or other similar facility.

H.J. “Owner’s Group” means for each owner of a Residential Unit, with respect to each Residential Unit, the owner, any current or former co-owner, and any Related Person or Affiliate of the owner or any current or former co-owner.

H.K. “Related Person” means a spouse, domestic partner, child, parent, or sibling.

H.L. “Residential Unit” means a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is designed as separate living quarters, other than units occupied or intended for occupancy primarily by travelers, vacationers, or other transient occupants. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have a kitchen and direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. For purposes of this Chapter, a Residential Unit shall not include a unit in a currently operational nursing home, residential care facility, or other similar facility, or any unit that is fully exempt from property tax under the welfare exemption under Section 214(g) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code, as may be amended from time to time.

H.M. “Vacancy Exclusion Period” means the Building Permit Application Period, Rehabilitation Period, Disaster Period, Homeowners’ Exemption Period, Lease Period, New Construction Period, Owner Death Period, or Owner In Care Period, or where the owner has affirmatively indicated through filings with the Rent Board that a single unit in an owner-occupied duplex is being used by owner or family members for no consideration.

H.N. “Vacant” means an unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused rental unit as defined in Chapter 4(g) for at least more than one tax year.

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#### **7.54.040 Imposition of Tax.**

A. Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter for the purposes described in Section 7.54.090, the City imposes an annual Empty Homes Tax on each person that owns a Residential Unit for keeping that Residential Unit Vacant.

B. The tax on an owner keeping a Residential Unit Vacant for a single tax year in 2024 and subsequent single tax years shall be shall as follows:

1. \$3,000 per vacant condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse unit under separate residential unit ownership;
2. \$6,000 per other vacant Residential Unit.



C. The tax on an owner keeping a Residential Unit Vacant for the 2025 tax year or subsequent tax years, if that owner has kept that Residential Unit Vacant in the immediately preceding tax year, shall be as follows:

1. \$6,000 per vacant condominium, duplex, single family dwelling, or townhouse unit under separate residential unit ownership;
2. \$12,000 per other vacant Residential Unit.

D. The rates set forth in subsections B. of this Section shall be adjusted annually in accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index: All Urban Consumers for the San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose Area for All Items as reported by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or any successor to that index, as of December 31st of the preceding year, beginning with the 2025 tax year.

E. The Empty Homes Tax shall be payable by the owner or owners of the Residential Unit kept Vacant. Not more than one tax per Residential Unit shall be imposed under this Section for a tax year by reason of multiple liable owners. If there are multiple liable owners, each owner shall be jointly and severally liable for the tax, which shall be the highest amount of tax payable by any owner for that Residential Unit for that tax year.

F. A person shall be liable for the Empty Homes Tax only if that person, while owning a Residential Unit, has kept or is deemed to have kept that Residential Unit unoccupied, uninhabited, or unused, for ~~more than~~ at least one tax year.

~~G. The Empty Homes Tax shall take effect on January 1, 2024. The Empty Homes Tax shall expire on January 1, 2034, unless reauthorized by voters prior to such date. ~~expire on December 31, 2053.~~~~

~~G.H. The Empty Homes Tax shall be suspended for as long as the Berkeley COVID-19 Residential Eviction Moratorium is in effect pursuant to BMC 13.110 and shall resume on upon expiration.~~

#### **7.54.050 Returns; Presumption of Vacancy.**

A. Each person that is required to pay the Empty Homes Tax shall file a return in the form and manner prescribed by the Finance Department.

B. Each person that owns a Residential Unit at any time during a tax year and that is not exempt from the Empty Homes Tax with respect to that Residential Unit under any one of subsections A. through E. of Section 7.54.060 shall file a return for that tax year in the form and manner prescribed by the Finance Department. A person that fails to file the return required by this subsection B. for a Residential Unit shall be presumed to have kept that Residential Unit Vacant for the tax year for which such return is required. The person who fails to file the required return may rebut the presumption by producing satisfactory evidence that such person did not keep the Residential Unit Vacant during the tax year for which the return is required.

#### **7.54.060 Exemptions and Exclusions.**

A. For only so long as and to the extent that the City is prohibited from imposing the Empty Homes Tax, any person upon whom the City is prohibited under the Constitution or laws of the State of California or the Constitution or laws of the United States from imposing the Empty Homes Tax shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax.

B. Any organization that is exempt from income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax.

C. The City, the State of California, and any county, municipal corporation, district, or other political subdivision of the State shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax, except where any constitutional or statutory immunity from taxation is waived or is not applicable.

D. A natural person or family trust that owns no more than two ~~s~~Single ~~f~~Family ~~d~~Dwellings ~~or condominiums~~ shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax for ~~s~~Single ~~f~~Family ~~d~~Dwelling Residential Units ~~or condominiums~~. For purposes of subparagraph D only, "Single Family Dwellings" is inclusive of a single ~~a~~Accessory ~~d~~Dwelling ~~u~~Unit ~~or~~ ~~and~~ a junior ~~a~~Accessory ~~d~~Dwelling ~~u~~Unit. Additionally, for the purposes of subparagraph D only, the "Owner" of such Rental Property shall not be any of the following set forth under California Civil Code Section 1947.12(d)(5)(A)(i)-(iii) ("AB 1482"): a real estate investment trust, as defined in Section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code; a corporation; or a limited liability company.

E. For each Residential Unit qualifying for any Vacancy Exclusion Period in a tax year, an owner shall be exempt from the Empty Homes Tax for that Residential Unit.

F. The tax imposed by this Chapter shall not apply to a property of three or fewer units which is owner-occupied and whose owner (1) is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and (2) whose combined family income, from all sources for the previous year, is at or below the income level qualifying as eighty percent (80%) of area median income for a Family of such size under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.A. Sections 1437 et. seq.), or successor legislation, for such year. Any taxpayer claiming the exemption under this section shall be required to demonstrate their entitlement thereto annually by submitting an application and supporting documentation to the City Manager or their designee in the manner and at the time established in regulations and/or guidelines hereafter promulgated by the City Manager subject to review by the City Council in its discretion. Such applications shall be on forms provided by the City Manager, or their designee, and shall provide and/or be accompanied by such information as the City Manager shall require, including but not limited to, federal income tax returns and W-2 forms.

#### **7.54.070 Administration; Penalties**

A. Except as otherwise provided under this Chapter, the Empty Homes Tax shall be administered pursuant to Chapter 2.44 and 9.04.

B. Transactions with the principal purpose of avoiding or evading all or a portion of the Empty Homes Tax shall be disregarded for purposes of determining the amount of the Empty Homes Tax and whether the Empty Homes Tax is due. In addition to the Empty Homes Tax due as a result of this subsection B., any owner liable for any Empty Homes Tax as a result of this subsection B. shall be liable for a penalty in an amount equal to the Empty Homes Tax due as a result of this subsection B.

#### **7.54.080 Housing Trust Fund; Deposit of Proceeds.**

A. Establishment of Fund. The Empty Homes Fund ("Fund") is hereby established as a special purpose fund, and shall receive all taxes, penalties, interest, and fees collected from the Empty Homes Tax imposed under this Chapter.

B. The Fund will operate as a subsidiary fund within the Housing Trust Fund and be subject to its operating rules.

C. Use of Fund. Subject to the budgetary and fiscal provisions of the Charter, monies in the Fund shall be used exclusively for the purposes described in Section 7.54.090.

D. Administration of Fund. Commencing with a report filed no later than February 15, 2026, covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Finance Director shall file annually with the Council, by February 15 of each year, a report containing the amount of monies collected in and expended from the Fund during the prior fiscal year, the status of any project required or authorized to be funded by Section 7.54.090, and such other information as the Finance Director, in the Finance Director's sole discretion, deems relevant to the operation of Chapter.

E. All monies collected under the Empty Homes Tax Ordinance shall be deposited to the credit of the Fund, established in subsection A. of this Section. The Fund shall be maintained separate and apart from all other City funds and shall be subject to appropriation. Any balance remaining in the Fund at the close of any fiscal year shall be deemed to have been provided for a special purpose and shall be carried forward and accumulated in the Fund for the purposes described in Section 7.54.090.

**7.54.090 Expenditure of Proceeds.**

Subject to the budgetary and fiscal provisions of the Charter, monies in the Housing Trust Fund shall be appropriated on an annual or supplemental basis and used exclusively for the following purposes:

A. To the Finance Department and other City Departments, for administration of the Empty Homes Tax and administration of the Housing Trust Fund, limited, each year, to 10% of annual proceeds.

B. Refunds of any overpayments of the Empty Homes Tax, including any related penalties, interest, and fees.

C. All remaining amounts to provide funding, including administrative costs, for Eligible Programs, 10% of which shall be used for the programs described in subsection 7.54.090 C.(1)(a) and 10% of which shall be used for the programs described in subsection 7.54.090 C.(1)(b). The voters intend that these remaining amounts be spent on Eligible Programs at levels in addition to amounts currently spent on such Eligible Programs and that such remaining amounts not be used to supplant existing expenditures.

1. For purposes of this Section 7.54.090, "Eligible Programs" means:
  - a. Construction of new affordable housing, including by providing pre-development funding to non-profit affordable housing developers. Buildings subject to expenditures under this subsection 7.54.090 C.(1)(B) shall be restricted through a recorded deed restriction or restrictions mandated for the useful life of the building to households with an household income of 80% or less of Area Median Income.
  - b. The acquisition and rehabilitation of multi-unit buildings for affordable housing, and the operation of such buildings acquired and/or rehabilitated. Buildings subject to expenditures under this subsection 7.54.090 C.(1)(B) shall be restricted through a recorded deed restriction or restrictions mandated for the useful life of the building to households with an household income of 80% or less of Area Median Income.
2. For purposes of this Section 7.54.090, "Area Median Income" means the median income as published annually by the City Manager pursuant to Chapter 23.328.080

(Administrative Regulations), derived in part from the income limits and area median income determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or its successor agency, for the Alameda County metro fair market rent area, adjusted solely for household size, but not for high housing cost area. The Council may modify this definition of Area Median Income solely for purposes of subsection 7.54.090 C.(1)(b) to determine area median income by zip code area.

**7.54.100 Technical Assistance to the Finance Department.**

The Department of Public Works, the Planning ~~Department of Building Inspection~~, the Rent Board, ~~and the Assessor-Recorder's Office~~ shall provide technical assistance to the Finance Department, upon the Finance Department's request, to administer the Empty Homes Tax.

**7.54.110 Authorization and Limitation on Issuance of Bonds.**

The City is hereby authorized to issue from time to time limited tax bonds or other forms of indebtedness to finance the costs of the projects described in Section 7.54.090. The City shall be authorized to pledge revenues generated by the Empty Homes Tax to the repayment of limited tax bonds or other forms of indebtedness authorized under this Section. The Council shall by ordinance or resolution, as applicable, establish the terms of any limited tax bonds or other forms of indebtedness authorized hereby, including but not limited to, the amount of the issue, date, covenants, denominations, interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, tax status, manner of sale, and such other particulars as are necessary or desirable.

**7.54.120 Amendment of Ordinance.**

The Council may amend this ordinance in any manner by two-thirds vote, including reducing any applicable tax rates or adding or modifying exemptions that does not result in an increase in the tax imposed herein without further voter approval except as limited by Articles XIII A and XIII C of the California Constitution. If the City Council repeals this ordinance, it may subsequently reenact it without voter approval, as long as the reenacted ordinance does not result in an increase in the tax imposed herein.

**7.54.130 Severability.**

Severability. If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The People of the City of Berkeley hereby declare that they would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional.

**7.54.140 Savings Clause.**

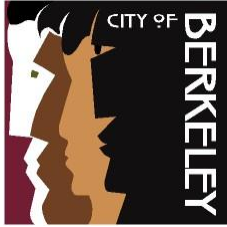
No section, clause, part, or provision of this Chapter shall be construed as requiring the payment of any tax that would be in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of the Constitution or laws of the State of California.

Section 2. Increase Appropriations Limit. Pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII B and applicable laws, for four years from November 8, 2022, the appropriations limit for the City shall be increased by the aggregate sum collected by the levy of the tax imposed under this ordinance.

Section 3. California Environmental Quality Act Requirements. This Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., under, including without limitation, Public Resources Code section 21065 and CEQA Guidelines sections 15378(b)(4) and 15061(b)(3), as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity authorized herein may have a significant effect on the environment and pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080, subdivision (b)(8), and CEQA Guidelines section 15273 as the approval of government revenues to fund existing services.

Section 4. Special Tax; Two Thirds Vote Requirement. This Ordinance imposes a Special tax for special revenue purposes and shall be effective only if approved by two thirds of the voters voting thereon.





Office of the City Manager

## **REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 1**

**Meeting Date:** July 26, 2022

**Item Number:** 31

**Item Description:** Placing a Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot Amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance (B.M.C. 13.76)

**Submitted by:** Office of the City Attorney and Matt Brown, General Counsel  
Rent Board

Amendments to staff report summarizing the ballot measure and the direction given by Council at the July 12, 2022 Council meeting.

The ballot measure language has been amended to: (1) delete the proposed removal of the just cause for eviction based on exceeding lease occupancy limits; (2) remove the proposed eviction protections for tenants of accessory dwelling units; and (3) clarify the function and intent of the exemption for “newly constructed units” that replace demolished protected units. The ballot measure retains the originally proposed amendments related to the Golden Duplex eviction protections and the section on Decontrol.

Amendments to resolution placing measure on the November 8, 2022 ballot: changes to title, ballot question language, Whereas statements, and other sections of resolution, reflecting Council’s direction on July 12, 2022. Non-substantive changes for clarity.



**Rent Stabilization Board  
Office of the Executive Director**

ACTION CALENDAR

July 26, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: 4 x 4 Joint Committee on Housing City Council/Rent Board

SUBMITTED BY: Matt Brown, General Counsel, Rent Stabilization Board  
Farimah Brown, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Placing a Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot Amending the  
Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance (B.M.C. 13.76)

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RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a Resolution placing the proposed amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance on the ballot of the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election.
2. Designate, by motion, specific members of the Council to file ballot measure arguments on this measure as provided for in Elections Code Section 9282.

SUMMARY

The Rent Stabilization Board and 4 x 4 Committee on Housing City Council/Rent Board recommended a set of amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance (B.M.C. Chapter 13.76). This was brought to Council as Item #20 in the Action Calendar of the July 12, 2022 meeting. These amendments proposed the following changes:

1. Amend the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to allow for rent control to attach to all residential rental units where state law does not prohibit it, and specifically allow the City to designate new units as rent-controlled when they are created pursuant to demolition projects as allowed by Senate Bill 330;



2. Eliminate the good cause for Eviction that allows landlords to evict tenants who have exceeded previously established occupancy limits unless the number of occupants currently in the rental unit exceeds the maximum number of occupants legally allowed under Section 503(b)(2) of the Uniform Housing Code as incorporated by California Health & Safety Code Section 17922;
3. Eliminate B.M.C. Section 13.76.060Q, which allows Council, upon request by the Board, to decontrol rental units in the event the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the City of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six-month period;
4. Add eviction protections for certain units that do not currently have them.

Council reviewed the proposed changes at its July 12, 2022 meeting. Council ultimately adopted a motion to delay final action on Item #20 of the agenda until its July 26, 2022 meeting and directed the City Attorney to bring back revised language reflecting the following changes:

1. Add eviction protections for tenant households who live in Golden Duplexes as proposed in the July 12, 2022 agenda packet;
2. Remove the language proposing to add eviction protections for tenant households who live in properties with qualifying Accessory Dwelling Units as proposed in the July 12, 2022 agenda packet;<sup>1</sup>
3. Amend the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to allow for rent control to attach to all residential rental units where state law does not prohibit it, and specifically allow the City to designate new units as rent-controlled when they are created pursuant to demolition projects as allowed by Senate Bill 330 as proposed in the July 12, 2022 agenda packet;

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<sup>1</sup> Council also requested that the City explore noticing requirements to tenants living in properties with ADUs when they sign lease agreements, so those tenants are aware that they will be living in rental units that may be completely exempt from both rent control and eviction protections. The Rent Ordinance (BMC Chapter 13.76) is a voter-adopted initiative that can only be amended by the voters during a general election. Council, however, has adopted several chapters of the municipal code that the Rent Board specifically administers, including BMC Chapter 13.79 (Tenant Protections). This chapter already contains language regarding mandatory disclosure to tenants when there is specific language in the lease.

We believe Chapter 13.79 should be amended if Council wishes to require that landlords who qualify for a full exemption from rent control and eviction protections as articulated in BMC 13.76.050N. (ADU exemption) must have language in their written rental agreements identifying such exemption. This is consistent with the previously-adopted sections of that chapter. Moreover, Council has adopted other BMC chapters requiring specific language in all leases (See BMC Chapter 12.70.037 requiring that all written leases prohibit indoor smoking). As such, this item is not currently being moved forward for consideration as part of the ballot initiative amending the Rent Ordinance. We have consulted with the Rent Board's legal unit, and they concur that the language would be best placed in BMC 13.79 should Council wish to adopt this requirement.

4. Eliminate B.M.C. Section 13.76.060Q, which allows Council, upon request by the Board, to decontrol rental units in the event the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the City of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six-month period as proposed in the July 12, 2022 agenda packet; and
5. Remove the language to eliminate the good cause for Eviction that allows landlords to evict tenants who have exceeded previously established occupancy limits unless the number of occupants currently in the rental unit exceeds the maximum number of occupants legally allowed under Section 503(b)(2) of the Uniform Housing Code as incorporated by California Health & Safety Code Section 17922 as proposed in the July 12, 2022 agenda packet.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There will be a financial cost to the City limited to the costs associated with placing the measure on the ballot. Each additional measure added to the ballot increases the costs to the city.

If more rental units are fully covered by the Ordinance, Registration fees currently mandated by B.M.C. 13.76.080 for fully covered rental units may decrease as a result of economies of scale to provide services to all fully-covered units.

#### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Berkeley voters passed Measure D in June 1980, establishing the current Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance as codified in Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 13.76. Berkeley City Council has, periodically, placed measures on the general ballot for the voters to decide when the Board recommends amendments.

1. Add Eviction Protections to Rental Units that do not Currently Receive Them

The Rent Ordinance fully exempts a subset of owner-occupied duplexes from the Rent Ordinance. These “golden duplexes” are ones that are currently owner-occupied as a principal residence and were owner-occupied (not necessarily by the same owner) on December 31, 1979.

Tenant occupied units on these properties do not have eviction protections articulated in the Rent Ordinance when the property owner occupies a unit on the property as their principal residence.

2. Expansion of Rent Control to Cover Units Created as the Result of Demolition Pursuant to SB 330 and make clear that Rent Control Applies to all Units unless Specifically Prohibited by State Law

The Rent Ordinance currently defines “new construction” as a rental unit that was created after

June 30, 1980. The date a unit was created is based upon the date of issuance of the first certificate of occupancy. While newly constructed units are partially covered by the Rent Ordinance (Registration, Security Deposit Interest, and Good Cause Eviction Protections), they are not covered by rent control.

3. Eliminate “Decontrol” Clause from the Ordinance

The elected Board may request that Council decontrol rental units if the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the city of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six-month period.

BACKGROUND

1. Add Eviction Protections to Rental Units that do not Currently Receive Them

The 4 x 4 Committee voted on a proposal that would protect more tenants from eviction. The Committee particularly expressed concern regarding vulnerable tenants who may lose their homes following the expiration of the eviction moratorium associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic (B.M.C. Section 13.110).

The Committee requested that good cause for eviction protections articulated in B.M.C. Section 13.76.130 be extended to tenants in properties that are currently fully exempt from the Ordinance; namely the Accessory Dwelling Unit exemption as defined in B.M.C. Section 13.76.050N. and the “golden duplex” exemption as defined in B.M.C. Sections 13.76.050F. and 13.76.050H. Both of these properties are fully exempt when the property owner principally resides in a unit on the property. The proposal would only add good cause eviction protections pursuant to B.M.C. Section 13.76.130; it would not remove any other exemptions from the Ordinance for these properties.

After reviewing the proposed language submitted by the 4 x 4 Committee, Council voted to continue to consider adding eviction protections for tenants occupying units in Golden Duplexes as defined in B.M.C. Sections 13.76.050F. and 13.76.050H. However, Council voted *not* to consider adding eviction protections for tenants occupying units in properties with ADUs as defined in B.M.C. Section 13.76.050N. As such, this proposal moves forward with only a proposed Rent Ordinance amendment that adds eviction protections for tenants in Golden Duplexes.

Council voted on July 12, 2022, to support this proposal. The language approved for further consideration is set forth in Attachment A, in subsection 13.76.050.

2. Expansion of Rent Control to Cover Units Created as the Result of Demolition Pursuant to SB 330 and make clear that Rent Control May Apply to all Newly Constructed Units unless Specifically Prohibited by State Law

The Housing Crisis Act of 2019 (SB 330 and SB 8, “HCA”) allows cities to impose rent control protections on units that are built as the result of demolition of previously-controlled units. The HCA requires all housing projects that demolish existing residential units to create as least as many residential units as are being demolished. Projects that contain "protected units," which include residential units that have been subject to a local rent control program within the previous five years, are required to provide replacement units at an affordable rent (or sales price) with the same number of bedrooms as the demolished unit. The affordability level of a replacement unit is based on the income level of the last household occupying the demolished unit and must be rented (or sold) at a rate that is affordable to occupants of the same income category or lower. If a "protected unit" was last occupied by persons or families above the low-income category, the affected city has the option to require that the housing project provide: 1) a replacement unit affordable to low-income households for a period of at least 55 years, or 2) a replacement unit that complies with the jurisdiction's rent or price control ordinance.

Currently, the Rent Control Ordinance expressly exempts newly constructed units from Chapters 10 (Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting), 11 (Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings) and 12 (Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings) of Ordinance. These residential units are subject to the registration requirements of Measure MM, are covered by good cause for eviction, and are entitled to annual security deposit interest, but they are not subject to local rent controls. The HCA would allow for these new units created as the result of demolition to be fully covered by the rent control provisions of the ordinance should the City choose that option when approving new construction that was the result of demolition of existing qualifying units.

The 4 x 4 Committee also directed staff to draft language that would amend the Rent Ordinance to make clear that all newly constructed units are fully rent-controlled unless otherwise prohibited by state law.

The Board voted unanimously to support this proposal on March 17, 2022, the 4 x 4 Committee voted on May 3, 2022, to support this proposal, and Council voted on July 12, 2022 to support this proposal. The approved language is set forth in Attachment A, in subsections 13.76.040 and 13.76.050.

### 3. Eliminate “Decontrol” Clause from the Ordinance

The Rent Ordinance has a section that allows the Berkeley City Council (upon request by the Board) to exempt units from rent control should vacancy rates reach 5% over a six-month period.<sup>2</sup> While Council has the discretion to eliminate rent controls for units (it is not mandatory), this clause is inconsistent with the Charter and most all of the Rent Ordinance which

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<sup>2</sup> BMC Section 13.76.060Q.

establishes the Board's separate authority to regulate rents and administer the law independent of any other elected or appointed body.

Moreover, given that both the Charter and Rent Ordinance are voter-adopted initiatives, it follows that the issue of decontrol would be put before the voters in the event that the community decides to eliminate local rent control. Council has no other authority to interfere either substantively or procedurally in the Board's administration, so removing this clause will be consistent with the overall operation of the rent program and the law the Board and staff administer.

The proposal would be to simply eliminate this paragraph from the Rent Ordinance.

The Board voted unanimously to support this proposal on March 17, 2022, and the 4 x 4 Committee voted on May 3, 2022, to support this proposal, and Council voted on July 12, 2022 to support this proposal. The approved language is set forth in Attachment A, in subsection 13.76.060.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This report and its recommendations are the result of direction from the 4 x 4 Committee, which voted on May 3, 2022 to recommend to the City Council to place the proposed amendments on the ballot for November 8, 2022. The Rent Stabilization Board also voted on March 17, 2020, to support the first three proposals.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

There was some discussion at both the Board and the 4 x 4 Committee of including a clause that makes explicit that California Civil Code Section 1954.52(b) allows Council to attach rent control to units that would otherwise qualify as new construction in the event that projects allowed for certain density bonuses, but this ultimately did not gain sufficient traction and is not a part of the proposed amendments. The Committee discussed at some length that they thought this was already allowed by the current amendments included in B.M.C. 13.76.040R. which make explicit that all new construction is fully covered by the Ordinance in the event that state law does not specifically prohibit it. In any event, the City will need to make more sweeping changes to the Planning/Zoning Ordinances in order to implement these changes should Council wish to do so in the future.

CONTACT PERSON

Matt Brown, General Counsel, Rent Stabilization Board, (510) 981-4905

Attachments:

1. Resolution

Exhibit A: Ordinance as Amended

2. May 3, 2022 Staff Report to 4 x 4 Committee

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE A MEASURE AMENDING CHAPTER 13.76 OF THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW RENT CONTROL TO APPLY TO NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS WHERE STATE AND LOCAL LAW DO NOT PROHIBIT RENT CONTROL, AND SPECIFICALLY TO UNITS BUILT AS THE RESULT OF DEMOLITION OF PREVIOUSLY RENT-CONTROLLED UNITS; ELIMINATE PROVISION ALLOWING CITY COUNCIL TO EXEMPT UNITS FROM RENT CONTROL IF CITY'S VACANCY RATE EXCEEDS 5% OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD; AND INCREASE EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN LANDLORD-OCCUPIED PROPERTIES.

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance are to regulate residential rent increases in the City of Berkeley and to protect tenants from unwarranted rent increases and arbitrary, discriminatory, or retaliatory evictions, in order to help maintain the diversity of the Berkeley community and to ensure compliance with legal obligations relating to the rental of housing. This legislation is designed to address the City of Berkeley's housing crisis, preserve the public peace, health and safety, and advance the housing policies of the city with regard to low and fixed income persons, minorities, students, handicapped, and the aged; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater protections to tenants in newly constructed units; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater eviction protections for tenants in units that previously did not have such protections; and

WHEREAS, Section 13.76.060 (Decontrol) is to be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, these enumerated amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance will prevent displacement of tenants by extending additional protections and services to tenants who do not enjoy such protections under existing law; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council has elected to submit to the voters at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election, a measure amending Chapter 13.76 of the Berkeley Municipal Code to allow rent control to apply to new construction built as the result of demolition of previously rent-controlled units, eliminate a provision allowing the City Council to exempt units from rent control if the citywide vacancy rate exceeds 5%, and increase eviction protections for certain landlord-occupied properties.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that this resolution is hereby adopted and a measure amending Chapter 13.76 of the Berkeley Municipal Code to allow rent control to apply to newly constructed units where state and local law do not prohibit it and specifically to new construction built as the result of demolition of previously rent-controlled units; eliminate a provision allowing the City Council to exempt units from rent control if the citywide vacancy rate exceeds 5%; and increase eviction protections for certain landlord-occupied properties shall be placed before the voters at the election on November 8, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to California Elections Code sections 10002 and 10403, this City Council does hereby call an election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, and requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors consolidate said election with the Statewide General Election on that same date in the manner and schedule established by Resolution No. 70,336-N.S., adopted on May 10, 2022, and submit the Measure to the qualified voters of the City at said consolidated election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council acknowledges that the consolidated election will be held and conducted in the manner prescribed in Elections Code Section 10418.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above enumerated measure requires a majority vote threshold for passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285 (b), the City Council hereby adopts the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285 (a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Ordinance measure shall appear and be printed upon the ballots to be used at said election as follows:

CITY OF BERKELEY ORDINANCE	
Shall the measure amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to allow rent control to apply to new construction built as a result of demolition of rent-controlled units, where not prohibited by state law; eliminate a provision allowing the City Council to exempt units from rent control if the citywide vacancy rate exceeds 5% over six months; and limit evictions for certain landlord-occupied duplexes be adopted?	YES
	NO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the text of the measure be shown as Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Exhibits

A: Text of Measure

Exhibit A

ORDINANCE NO. ##,###-N.S.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY AMENDING CHAPTER 13.76 OF THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW RENT CONTROL TO APPLY TO NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS WHERE STATE AND LOCAL LAW DO NOT PROHIBIT RENT CONTROL AND SPECIFICALLY TO UNITS BUILT AS THE RESULT OF DEMOLITION OF PREVIOUSLY RENT-CONTROLLED UNITS; ELIMINATE PROVISION ALLOWING CITY COUNCIL TO EXEMPT UNITS FROM RENT CONTROL IF CITY'S VACANCY RATE EXCEEDS 5% OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD; AND INCREASE EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN LANDLORD-OCCUPIED PROPERTIES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. Section 13.76.040 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**13.76.040 Definitions.**

- A. "Board" refers to the elected Rent Stabilization Board established by this chapter and Article XVII of the Charter of the City of Berkeley.
- B. "Commissioners" means the members of the board who are denominated commissioners.
- C. "Housing services" include but are not limited to repairs, maintenance, painting, providing light, hot and cold water, elevator service, window shades and screens, storage, kitchen, bath and laundry facilities and privileges, janitor services, refuse removal, furnishing, telephone, parking and any other benefit, privilege or facility connected with the use or occupancy of any rental unit. Services to a rental unit shall include a proportionate part of services provided to common facilities of the building in which the rental unit is contained.

D. "Landlord" means an owner of record, lessor, sublessor or any other person or entity entitled to receive rent for the use or occupancy of any rental unit, or an agent, representative or successor of any of the foregoing.

E. "Rent" means the consideration, including any deposit, bonus, benefit or gratuity demanded or received for or in connection with the use or occupancy of rental units and housing services. Such consideration shall include, but not be limited to, monies and fair market value of goods or services rendered to or for the benefit of the landlord under the rental agreement.

F. "Rental agreement" means an agreement, oral, written or implied, between a landlord and a tenant for use or occupancy of a rental unit and for housing services.

G. "Rental unit" means any unit in any real property, including the land appurtenant thereto, rented or available for rent for residential use or occupancy (including units covered by the Berkeley Live/Work Ordinance No. 5217-NS), located in the City of Berkeley, together with all housing services connected with use or occupancy of such property such as common areas and recreational facilities held out for use by the tenant.

H. "Property" means a parcel of real property which is assessed and taxed as an undivided whole.

I. "Tenant" means any renter, tenant, subtenant, lessee, or sublessee of a rental unit, or successor to a renter's interest, or any group of tenants, subtenants, lessees, or sublessees of any rental unit, or any other person entitled to the use or occupancy of such rental unit.

J. "Skilled nursing facility" means a health facility or a distinct part of a hospital which provides the following basic services: skilled nursing care and supportive care to patients whose primary need is for availability of skilled nursing care on an extended basis. It provides 24-hour inpatient care and, as a minimum, includes medical, nursing, dietary, pharmaceutical services and an activity program. The facility shall have effective arrangements, confirmed in writing, through which services required by the patients, but not regularly provided within the facility, can be obtained promptly when needed.

K. "Health facility" means any facility, place or building which is organized, maintained and operated for the diagnosis, care and treatment of human illness, physical or mental, including convalescence and rehabilitation and including care during and after pregnancy, or for any one or more of these purposes, for one or more persons, to which such persons are admitted for a 24-hour stay or longer.

L. "Recognized tenant organization" means any group of tenants, residing in rental units in the same building or in different buildings operated by the same management company, agent or landlord, which requests to be so designated.

M. "Rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent which a landlord may charge on any rental unit covered by this chapter.

N. "Base rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent established under Section 13.76.100 of this chapter.

O. "Fees" means for the purpose of this chapter, a charge fixed by law for services of public officers or for use of a privilege under control of government.

P. "Nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education" means a post secondary educational institution whose legal status under the California Education Code is verified by an annual validation receipt from the California State Department of Education, and which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or the Association of Theological Schools and which is exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and under Section 23701(d) of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and which, if otherwise required by law to do so, has obtained a valid unrevoked letter or ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or from the Franchise Tax Board which states that the organization so qualifies for exemption from taxation.

Q. "Newly Constructed" means a rental unit created after June 30, 1980. For purposes of this definition, the date a unit was created is based upon the date of the first certificate of occupancy issued for the subject unit. However, in the event of the repeal or amendment of Civil Code Section 1954.52, such that "certificate of occupancy" is no longer the operative standard set forth under state law, the date a unit was created shall be determined by the final inspection approval by the City.

1. Notwithstanding any other provision in this ordinance, and to the extent that state or local law does not prohibit a local jurisdiction from regulating the rent on a residential rental unit, such units shall not be exempt as “newly constructed units” and, unless otherwise exempt, shall be covered by all provisions of this chapter. This includes, but is not limited to, any residential rental units created as a result of demolition and replacement of “protected units” where replacement of such units is required by the Housing Crisis Act of 2019, Government Code Sections 66300-66301, and to the extent that the City requires such units to be subject to this ordinance.

Section 2: Section 13.76.050 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

### **13.76.050 Applicability**

This chapter shall apply to all real property that is being rented or is available for rent for residential use in whole or in part, except for the following:

- A. Rental units which are owned by any government agency. However, the exemption of units owned by the Berkeley Housing Authority from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter.
- B. Rental units which are rented primarily to transient guests for use or occupancy less than fourteen consecutive days in establishments such as hotels, motels, inns, tourist homes, and rooming and boarding houses. However, the payment of rent every fourteen days or less shall not by itself exempt any unit from coverage by this chapter.
- C. Rental units in nonprofit cooperatives owned and controlled by a majority of the residents.
- D. Rental units leased to tenants assisted under the Section 8 program (42 U.S.C. Section 1437f) or the Shelter Plus Care Program (42 U.S.C. 11403 et. seq.) or similar

federally funded rent subsidy program. Except as may be preempted by state or federal law, the exemption of such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. However, the exemption from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 shall apply only for so long as the rent demanded does not exceed the authorized Payment Standard, which, for purposes of this subsection, is the maximum monthly rental assistance potentially available to an assisted household before deducting the household share of income paid for rent and utilities as established by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency. For units where the rent demanded exceeds the Payment Standard, the Payment Standard or an initial rent above the Payment Standard if approved by the Berkeley Housing Authority, as reported to the board by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency, shall become the unit's base rent ceiling and the reference point from which the rent ceiling shall be adjusted in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.

E. Rental units in any hospital, skilled nursing facility, health facility, asylum, or non-profit home for the aged.

F. Rental units in a residential property which is divided into a maximum of four units where one of such units is occupied by the landlord as his/her principal residence. Any exemption of rental units established under this subsection (13.76.050 F.) shall be limited to rental units that would have been exempt under the provisions of this chapter had this chapter been in effect on December 31, 1979. After July 1, 1982, this exemption shall no longer apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into three or four units. It shall continue to apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into two units, and which meet all the other requirements of this subsection (13.76.050F). However, the exemption of such rental units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.070, Security Deposits; Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. Rental units

which become non-exempt under this provision shall have the provisions of Subsections 13.76.080I and 13.76.100C. applied to them.

G. A rental unit in a residential property where the landlord shares kitchen or bath facilities with the tenant(s) of such rental unit and where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence.

H. For the purposes of Subsections 13.76.050 F. and G., the term landlord shall be defined only as the owner of record holding at least 50% interest in the property.

I. Newly constructed rental units, as defined in Section 13.76.040Q. However, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. To the extent that state law permits, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to the first 20 years after completion of construction.

J. A rental unit which is rented by a nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education to a tenant or tenants who are student(s), faculty, or staff of the institution or of a member school of the Graduate Theological Union, provided, however, that the institution owned the unit as of January 1, 1988.

K. A rental unit in a residential property owned by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is rented to a low income tenant and subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency that controls the unit's rent levels. However, the exemption for such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings of this chapter and shall apply only for so long as the regulatory agreement is in effect. This exemption shall not apply to rental units at the property that are not subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency or that are rented by a tenant who occupied the unit prior to the property's acquisition by the tax-exempt organization.

L. Rental units in a facility owned or leased by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that has the primary purpose of operating a treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program for qualified clients, where such rental units are provided incident to the client's participation in the primary program and where the client has been informed in writing of the temporary or transitional nature of the housing at the inception of his or her participation in the program. However, except as may be preempted by the Transitional Housing Participant Misconduct Act (California Health and Safety Code Sections 50580 et. seq.) or other state or federal law, such rental units shall not be exempted from the terms of Section 13.76.130, Good Cause Required for Eviction. For purposes of Section 13.76.130.A.2, the client's continued eligibility for participation in the treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program shall be deemed a material term of the client's rental agreement with the program's operator.

M. A rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority recognized by the University of California Berkeley, or a rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority identified by Rent Board Resolution. To qualify for the exemption, the rental unit must be owned by the fraternity or sorority or by an entity whose sole purpose is the maintenance and operation of the fraternity or sorority's rental units for the benefit of the members in order to provide housing to said members at cost.

N. A rental unit in a residential property containing only a Single Family Dwelling (as defined in Subtitle 23F.04 of the Zoning Ordinance) and one lawfully established and fully permitted Accessory Dwelling Unit where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence. This subsection (13.76.050N) shall only apply to properties containing a single Accessory Dwelling Unit, shall only apply to units compliant with all applicable requirements of Chapter 23C.24 ("Accessory Dwelling Units"), and shall only apply to tenancies created after November 7, 2018.

O. A dwelling or a unit alienable separate from the title to any other dwelling unit unless the tenancy commenced before January 1, 1996. However, the exemption of such units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting: Section 13.76.110, Annual General



Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. A property owner who owns only one residential unit in the City of Berkeley, and occupied that residential unit for 365 consecutive days as their principal residence immediately prior to renting the unit, and is absent from the unit for a period not to exceed 24 months, and such period is specified in the lease, shall also be exempt from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration, of this Chapter. The exemptions provided in this Section shall apply only as long as the pertinent provisions of California Civil Code Section 1954.50 et. seq. ("Costa-Hawkins") remain in effect and require such an exemption.

Section 3: Section 13.76.060 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**13.76.060 Rent Stabilization Board**

- A. Composition. There shall be in the city of Berkeley an elected rent stabilization board; the board shall consist of nine commissioners. The board shall elect annually as chairperson one of its members to serve in that capacity.
- B. Eligibility. Residents who are duly qualified electors of the city of Berkeley are eligible to serve as commissioners on the board.
- C. Full disclosure of holdings. Candidates for the position of commissioner shall fulfill the requirements as set forth in the City Charter in Article III, Section 6 1/2.

In addition, when filing nomination papers, candidates shall submit a verified statement of their interests and dealings in real property, including but not limited to its ownership, sale or management and investment in and association with partnerships, corporations, joint ventures and syndicates engaged in its ownership, sale or management during the previous three years.

- D. Election of commissioners. Commissioners shall be elected at the statewide general election held in November of even numbered years.

E. Terms of office. Commissioners' terms of office shall be as set forth in Article XVII of the Berkeley City Charter.

F. Powers and duties. The elected rent stabilization board shall have the power to determine, to arbitrate and to set rent levels, whether through general or individual adjustments, of any unit which has controlled rents under any Berkeley Ordinance, and to administer any Berkeley program which regulates rents and evictions. The board shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Set the rent ceilings for all rental units.
2. Require registration of all rental units under Section 13.76.080.
3. Publicize the manner in which the base rent ceiling is established under Section 13.76.100.
4. To make adjustments in the rent ceiling in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.
5. Set rents at fair and equitable levels in view of and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter.
6. To issue orders, rules and regulations, conduct hearings and charge fees as set below.
7. Make such studies, surveys and investigations, conduct such hearings, and obtain such information as is necessary to carry out its powers and duties.
8. Report annually to the city council of the city of Berkeley on the status of rental housing units covered by this chapter.
9. Request the City Council to remove rent controls under Section 13.76.060Q.
10. Administer oaths and affirmations and subpoena witnesses and relevant documents.

11. Establish rules and regulations for settling civil claims under Section 13.76.150.
12. Seek injunctive relief under Section 13.76.150.
13. Pursue civil remedies in courts of appropriate jurisdiction.
14. Intervene as an interested party in any litigation brought before a court of appropriate jurisdiction by a landlord or tenant with respect to rental units covered by this chapter.
15. Hold public hearings.
16. Charge and collect registration fees, including penalties for late payments.
17. Other powers necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter which are not inconsistent with the terms of this chapter.
18. Except as provided in Section 13.76.060N of this chapter, the board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses for its operation without the use of general fund monies of the city of Berkeley.

G. Rules and Regulations: The board shall issue and follow such rules and regulations, including those which are contained in this Chapter, as will further the purposes of this Chapter. The board shall publicize its rules and regulations prior to promulgation in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the city of Berkeley.

All rules and regulations and relevant documents explaining the decisions, orders, and policies of the board shall be kept in the board's office and shall be available to the public for inspection and copying.

The board shall publicize this Chapter so that all residents of Berkeley will have the opportunity to become informed about their legal rights and duties under this Chapter. The board shall prepare a brochure which fully describes the legal rights and duties of landlords and tenants under this Chapter. The brochure shall be made available to the public.

H. Meetings: The board shall hold regularly scheduled meetings. Special meetings shall be called at the request of at least a majority of the commissioners of the board. The board shall hold its initial meeting no later than July 15, 1980.

I. Quorum: Five commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the board.

J. Voting: The affirmative vote of five commissioners of the board is required for a decision, including all motions, rules, regulations, and orders of the board.

K. Compensation: The rent stabilization board shall be a working board. Commissioners shall be paid compensation and benefits in an amount set by the board in order to compensate commissioners for their time and work performed as required by this chapter and the city charter.

L. Dockets: The board shall maintain and keep in its office all hearing dockets, which shall be available for public inspection.

M. Vacancies: If a vacancy shall occur on the board, a qualified person to fill such vacancy shall be selected in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article V of the City Charter.

N. Financing: The board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses by charging landlords annual registration fees in amounts deemed reasonable by the board. The registration fee for partially-exempt units shall reasonably approximate the cost of registration and counseling services for such units, and shall not include the cost of services from which such units are exempt. Such registration fees shall not be passed on to tenants in the form of rent increases except with the express prior approval of the board. The board is also empowered to request and receive funding, when and if necessary, from the city of Berkeley and/or any other available source for its reasonable and necessary expenses, including expenses incurred at the request of the City.

O. Staff: The board shall be a working board and shall employ such staff as may be necessary to perform its functions efficiently and as provided by Berkeley Ordinance.

P. Registration: The board shall require the registration of all rental units covered by this chapter as provided for in Section 13.76.080. The board may also require landlords to provide current information supplementing their registration statements.

~~Q.—Decontrol: If the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the city of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six month period, the city council is empowered, upon request by the board, at its discretion and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter, to exempt rental units covered by this chapter from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.100, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 of this chapter. In determining the vacancy rate for the city of Berkeley the board and the city council shall consider all available data and may conduct their own survey. If units are exempted pursuant to this Subsection Q coverage shall be reimposed if the city council finds that the average annual vacancy rate has thereafter fallen below five percent. Prior to any decision to exempt or renew coverage for rental units under this Subsection Q the board shall hold at least two public hearings.~~

~~R. Q.~~ Conflict of Interest: Commissioners shall be subject to the requirements of the California Political Reform Act and other applicable state and local conflict of interest codes. Commissioners shall not necessarily be disqualified from exercising any of their powers and duties on the grounds of a conflict of interest solely on the basis of their status as a landlord or tenant. However, a commissioner shall be disqualified from ruling on a petition for an individual adjustment of a rent ceiling under Section 13.76.120, where the commissioner is either the landlord of the property or a tenant residing in the property that is involved in the petition.

Section 4: Section 13.76.130 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows

#### **13.76.130 Good cause required for eviction**

A. No landlord shall be entitled to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter unless said landlord shows the existence of one of the following grounds:

1. The tenant has failed to pay rent to which the landlord is legally entitled pursuant to the lease or rental agreement and under the provisions of state or local law, unless the tenant has withheld rent pursuant to applicable law; and said failure has continued after service on the tenant of a written notice setting forth the amount of rent then due and requiring it to be paid, within a period, specified in the notice, of not less than three days. Rent that is lawfully withheld pursuant to emergency legislation that authorizes rent withholding during the effective period of a state of emergency applicable in Berkeley shall not constitute grounds for recovery of possession except as expressly provided in the applicable emergency legislation. Emergency legislation adopted during the emergency may prohibit recovery of possession for lawfully withheld rent even after the expiration of a state or local emergency.

2. The tenant has continued, after written notice to cease, to substantially violate any of the material terms of the rental agreement, except the obligation to surrender possession on proper notice as required by law, and provided that such terms are reasonable and legal and have been accepted in writing by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement; and provided further that, where such terms have been accepted by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement subsequent to the initial creation of the tenancy, the landlord shall have first notified the tenant in writing that he or she need not accept such terms or agree to their being made part of the rental agreement. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this chapter or in the rental agreement, a landlord is not entitled to recover possession of a rental unit under this subsection where a tenant permits his or her rental unit to be occupied by a subtenant, provided:

- a. The landlord has unreasonably withheld consent to the subtenancy; and
- b. The tenant remains an actual occupant of the rental unit; and
- c. The number of tenants and subtenants actually occupying the rental unit does not exceed the number of occupants originally allowed

by the rental agreement or the board's regulations, whichever is greater.

d. Withholding of consent by the landlord shall be deemed to be unreasonable where:

(i) The tenant's written request for consent was given at least two weeks prior to commencement of the subtenancy;

(ii) The proposed new subtenant has, upon the landlord's written request, completed the landlord's standard form application or provided sufficient information to allow the landlord to conduct a standard background check, including references and credit, income and other reasonable background information;

(iii) The proposed new subtenant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and

(iv) The landlord has not articulated in writing a well-founded reason for refusing consent.

3. The tenant has willfully caused or allowed substantial damage to the premises beyond normal wear and tear and has refused, after written notice, to pay the reasonable costs of repairing such damage and cease damaging said premises.

4. The tenant has refused to agree to a new rental agreement upon expiration of a prior rental agreement, but only where the new rental agreement contains provisions that are substantially identical to the prior rental agreement, and is not inconsistent with local, state and federal laws.

5. The tenant has continued, following written notice to cease, to be so disorderly as to destroy the peace and quiet of other tenants or occupants of the premises or the tenant is otherwise subject to eviction pursuant to subdivision 4 of Code of Civil Procedure Section 1161.

6. The tenant has, after written notice to cease, refused the landlord access to the unit as required by state or local law.
7.
  - a. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to undertake substantial repairs which are necessary to bring the property into compliance with applicable codes and laws affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building or where necessary under an outstanding notice of code violations affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building, and where such repairs cannot be completed while the tenant resides on the premises.
  - b. Where such repairs can be completed in a period of 60 or fewer days, and the tenant, within 30 days after the service of a notice of termination of his or her tenancy, agrees in writing to vacate the premises during the period required to complete the repairs at no charge to the landlord, other than abatement of the obligation to pay rent for the premises during the period required to complete the repairs, the landlord may not recover possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.) unless the tenant shall fail or refuse to vacate the premises in accordance with such agreement.
  - c. Where the landlord owns any other residential rental units in the City of Berkeley, and any such unit is vacant and available at the time of premises or the entry of a judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, the landlord shall, as a condition of obtaining possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), notify tenant in writing of the existence and address of each such vacant rental unit and offer tenant the right, at the tenant's option:
    - (i) To enter into a rental agreement (to be designated as a "temporary rental agreement") on any available rental unit which the tenant may choose, at a rent not to exceed the lesser of the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit or



the lawful rent in effect, at the time of the notice of termination of tenancy, on the unit being vacated, said rental agreement to be for a term of the lesser of ninety days or until completion of repairs on the rental unit being vacated by tenant; or

(ii) To enter into a new rental agreement or lease for such available rental unit at a rent not to exceed the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit.

d. Where the landlord recovers possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon completion of the required work. In the event the landlord files an application for an individual rent adjustment within six months following the completion of the work, the tenant shall be a party to such proceeding the same as if he or she were still in possession, unless the landlord shall submit, with such application, a written waiver by the tenant of his or her right to re-occupy the premises pursuant to this subsection.

8. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit, in order to remove the rental unit from the market by demolition.

9. Owner Move-in Evictions.

a. The landlord seeks in good faith with honest intent and without ulterior motive to recover possession for his/her own use and occupancy as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months; or

b. For the use and occupancy as the principal residence by the landlord's spouse or by the landlord's child, or parent for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.

c. For the purposes of this subsection (13.76.130A.9.), the term landlord shall be defined as the owner of record, as of the time of giving

of a notice terminating tenancy, and at all times thereafter to and including the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, holding at least a 50% interest in the property and shall not include a lessor, sublessor, or agent of the owner of record.

d. All notices terminating tenancy pursuant to subsection 13.76.130.A.9 shall include the following: the existence and potential availability of relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g; the existence of tenant protections for families with minor children as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.k; the name and relationship of any qualified relative for purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9b; and the landlord's ownership interest in any residential properties in the City of Berkeley where such interest, in any form whatsoever, is ten percent (10%) or greater. The landlord shall, within ten days of giving notice, file a copy of the notice terminating tenancy with the Rent Board.

e. The landlord may not recover possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.9.) if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley, was, at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the rental unit, already vacant and available, or if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley, thereafter becomes vacant at any time until the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord. In an action by or against the tenant, evidence that a comparable unit was vacant and available within ninety days prior to the date of a notice terminating the tenant's tenancy shall create a presumption that such unit was vacant and available at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the premises. "Presumption" means that the court must find the existence of the

presumed fact unless and until the contrary is proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

f. The landlord shall offer any non-comparable unit owned by the landlord to the tenant if a non-comparable unit becomes available before the recovery of possession of the tenant's unit at a rate based on the rent the tenant is paying with an upward or downward adjustment based on the condition, size, and other amenities of the replacement unit. Disputes concerning the initial rent for the replacement unit shall be determined by the Rent Board.

g. Where a landlord recovers possession of a unit under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord is required to provide standard relocation assistance to tenant households where at least one occupant has resided in the unit for one year or more in the amount of \$15,000. The landlord is required to provide an additional \$5,000 relocation assistance to tenant households that qualify as low-income; or include disabled or elderly tenants; minor children; or tenancies which began prior to January 1, 1999. The relocation fees set forth above shall be increased in accordance with the rules set forth in subsection 13.76.130A.9.h below. The procedures for payment of this relocation assistance are set forth below in subsection 13.76.130A.9.p.(i) through (iv). The following definitions apply for any tenant households evicted for owner move-in under subsection 13.76.130A.9:

(i) "Low-income tenants" means persons and families whose income does not exceed the qualifying limits for lower income families as established and amended from time to time pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, or as otherwise defined in Health and Safety Code Section 50079.5.

(ii) A person is "disabled" if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more of a person's major life activities within the meaning of the California Fair Housing and Employment Act (Government Code § 12926).

- (iii) "Elderly" is defined as sixty (60) years of age or older.
- (iv) "Minor child" means a person who is under 18 years of age.
- (v) "Tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999" is a tenancy where an "original occupant" (as defined by Berkeley Rent Board Regulation) still permanently resides in the rental unit.

h. Effective January 1 of each year beginning in 2018, the fees set forth above in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g., may be increased in an amount based on the Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Region averaged for the 12-month period ending June 30, of each year, as determined and published by United States Department of Labor. Any increase shall be published by the Board on or before October 31st of each year.

i. It shall be evidence that the landlord has acted in bad faith if the landlord or the landlord's qualified relative for whom the tenant was evicted does not move into the rental unit within three months from the date of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or occupy said unit as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.

j. Once a landlord has successfully recovered possession of a rental unit pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a., then no other current or future landlords may recover possession of any other rental unit on the property pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a. It is the intention of this subsection that only one specific unit per property may be used for such occupancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a and that once a unit is used for such occupancy, all future occupancies under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a must be of that same unit.

k. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit has a custodial or family relationship with a minor child who is residing in the unit, the tenant with the custodial or family relationship has resided in

the unit for 12 months or more, and the effective date of the notice of termination of tenancy falls during the school year. The term "school year" as used in this subsection means the first day of instruction for the Fall Semester through the first day of the month following the last day of instruction for the Spring Semester, as posted on the Berkeley Unified School District website for each year.

(i) For purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9.k, the term "custodial relationship" means that the person is a legal guardian of the child, or has a caregiver's authorization affidavit for the child as defined by Section 6550 of the California Family Code, or that the person has provided full-time custodial care of the child pursuant to an agreement with the child's legal guardian or court-recognized caregiver and has been providing that care for at least one year or half of the child's lifetime, whichever is less. The term "family relationship" means that the person is the biological or adoptive parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt or uncle of the child, or the spouse or domestic partner of such relations.

l. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit:

(i) Is 60 years of age or older and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(ii) Is disabled and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(iii) Has resided on the property for five years or more and the landlord has a ten percent (10%) or greater ownership interest, in any form whatsoever, in five or more residential rental units in the City of Berkeley.

m. A tenant who claims to be a member of one of the classes protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.l must submit a statement, with supporting evidence, to the landlord. A tenant's failure to submit a

statement at any point prior to the trial date of an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit shall be deemed an admission that the tenant is not protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I. A landlord may challenge a tenant's claim of protected status by raising it as an issue at trial in an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit.

n. The provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.9.I shall not apply to the following situations:

(i) Where a person is the owner of three or fewer residential units in the City of Berkeley and has no greater than a nine percent (9%) ownership interest in any other residential unit in the City of Berkeley; or

(ii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I and the landlord's qualified relative who is seeking possession of a unit subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.b is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii) above; or

(iii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I, the landlord has owned the unit for which possession is being sought subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a for five years or more and is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii).

o. Where a landlord recovers possession under Subsection 13.76.130A.9, the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon its next vacancy.

p. When a landlord is required to provide a relocation assistance payment subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, the payment shall be divided among the tenants occupying the rental unit at the time of service of the notice to terminate tenancy.

(i) Within ten days of service of a notice terminating tenancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord shall deposit the standard relocation assistance (for households where an occupant has resided one year or more) with the City or its designated agent to be held in escrow. Within ten days after the funds are deposited into escrow, the City shall release the standard relocation assistance to the tenant household, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(ii) In order to claim entitlement to additional relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, a tenant must notify the landlord and the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she is claiming low-income, disabled, elderly, tenant with minor child status, or a claim that the tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999 (hereinafter "entitlement to additional relocation assistance") per subsection 13.76.130A.9.g within 30 days of filing of notice of termination of tenancy with the Rent Stabilization Program. The landlord shall deposit the additional relocation payment with the Rent Stabilization Program or its designated agent to be held in escrow for any tenant household who claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance within ten days after such notice claiming entitlement to additional relocation assistance is mailed. Within ten days after the funds are deposited into escrow, the Rent Stabilization Program shall authorize release of the relocation assistance to the tenant household that claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(iii) When a tenant household's eligibility to receive standard or additional relocation assistance as described in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g is disputed, either party may file a Rent Board petition requesting a determination of eligibility or file a claim in a court of competent jurisdiction. The Rent Stabilization Program shall release disputed relocation assistance funds to either the tenant or the landlord upon receipt of either a written agreement by both the landlord and the affected tenant, an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or an order of a City or Rent Board hearing examiner issued pursuant to a petition process conducted in accordance with applicable Rent Board Regulations.

(iv) The landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy prior to any release of relocation payment to the tenants by serving written notice stating such rescission on the tenants. In such instance, the relocation payment shall be released to the landlord. Subsequent to the release of any relocation payment to the tenants, the landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy only upon the written agreement of the tenants to remain in possession of the rental unit. If the tenants remain in possession of the rental units after service of a landlord's written notice of rescission of the eviction, the tenants shall provide an accounting to the landlord of the amount of the relocation payment expended for moving costs, return to the landlord that portion of the relocation payment not expended for moving costs, and assign to the landlord all rights to recover the amount of relocation payment paid to third parties. If a rescission occurs under this subsection, the tenant(s) shall continue the tenancy on the same terms as before the notice was served.

(v) Where a landlord has served a notice of termination of tenancy on a tenant prior to the date that this amendment takes effect and the notice of termination of tenancy has not expired, the landlord shall deposit the full relocation payment with the City or its



designated agent to be held in escrow for the tenants if the tenants have not vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment, and the landlord shall pay the full relocation payment to the tenants if the tenants have vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment. Said deposit in escrow or payment to the tenants shall be made within ten days of the effective date of this amendment.

(vi) Failure of the landlord to make any payment specified herein shall be a defense to any action to recover possession of a rental unit based upon the landlord's termination of tenancy notice pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9). In addition, if the tenants of a rental unit have vacated the unit as a result of a notice of termination of tenancy pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130.A.9), and the landlord fails to make any payment specified herein, the landlord shall be liable to the tenants for three times the amount of the payment as well as reasonable attorney fees.

q. A tenant who prevails in an action brought under this subsection (13.76.130A.9), in addition to any damages and/or costs awarded by the court, shall be entitled to recover all reasonable attorney's fees incurred in bringing or defending the action.

r. At least twice annually, Rent Board staff shall report to the Rent Board regarding the occupancy status of units possession of which has been recovered pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9) within the prior 36 months.

s. If any provision or clause of this subsection (13.76.130A.9) or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional or to be otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or clauses, and to this end the provisions and applications of this subsection are severable.

10. A landlord or lessor seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence, where the landlord or lessor has previously occupied the rental unit as his/her principal residence and has the right to recover possession of the unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence under an existing rental agreement with the current tenants.

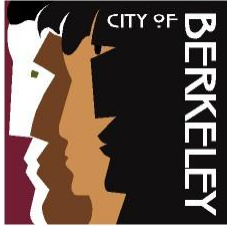
11. The tenant fails to vacate a rental unit occupied under the terms of a temporary rental agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.7.c., following expiration of the term of said temporary rental agreement, and following written notice of the availability of tenant's previous rental unit for re-occupancy by tenant (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the completion of repairs on the old rental unit), or of written notice to quit (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the expiration of a period of 90 days).

B. A landlord's failure to specify good cause as listed above in subsections 1. through 11. of Section 13.76.130A. in the notice of termination or the notice to quit and in the complaint for possession shall be a defense to any action for possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter.

C. In any action to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter, except an action to recover possession under subsection 13.76.130A.7., 13.76.130.A.8, or 13.76.130.A.11., a landlord shall allege, as to each rental unit on the property, substantial compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with the implied warranty of habitability and compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with Sections 13.76.100 (Rent Ceiling) and 13.76.080 (Rent Registration) of this chapter.

D. The landlord shall file with the board a copy of any notice of termination, notice to quit, and summons and complaint, within ten days after the tenant has been served with such notice or summons and complaint.

Section 5. Severability. If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The People of the City of Berkeley hereby declare that they would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional.



Office of the City Manager

## **REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 2**

**Meeting Date:** July 12, 2022

**Item Number:** 20

**Item Description:** Placing a Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot Amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance (B.M.C. 13.76)

**Submitted by:** Office of the City Attorney and Matt Brown, General Counsel  
Rent Board

Amendments to resolution placing measure on the November 8, 2022 ballot: changes to ballot question language and non-substantive changes to title and other sections of resolution.

Amendments to ballot measure language: adding two additional exemptions to Section 13.76.050, subsections F and N for accessory dwelling units and certain owner-occupied properties; non-substantive changes to title and other sections.

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

~~SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE A MEASURE TO AMENDING BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.76 OF THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW RENT CONTROL TO APPLY, TO THE EXTENT THAT STATE OR LOCAL LAW PERMITS, FOR THE REGULATION OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS WHERE STATE AND LOCAL LAW DO NOT PROHIBIT RENT CONTROL, AND SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO UNITS, BUILT AS THE RESULT OF DEMOLITION OF PREVIOUSLY RENT-CONTROLLED UNITS CREATED PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 330 (HOUSING CRISIS ACT OF 2019); ALLOW INCREASED OCCUPANCY OF RENTAL UNITS WITHOUT THREAT OF EVICTION; ELIMINATE PROVISION ALLOWING CITY COUNCIL TO EXEMPT UNITS FROM RENT CONTROL IF CITY'S VACANCY RATE EXCEEDS 5% OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD; AND INCREASE EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN LANDLORD-OCCUPIED PROPERTIES. TO ADD EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR RENTAL UNITS IN A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CONSISTING OF TWO UNITS WHERE ONE OF THE UNITS IS OCCUPIED BY A LANDLORD AS THEIR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND WHERE ONE OF THE TWO UNITS WAS OWNER OCCUPIED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1979 AND EVICTION PROTECTIONS TO TENANTS IN RENTAL UNITS CONTAINING A SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING AND ONE LAWFULLY ESTABLISHED ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT WHERE THE LANDLORD OCCUPIES A UNIT IN THE SAME PROPERTY; TO PROHIBIT EVICTIONS BASED ON THE ADDITION OF OCCUPANTS IF THE LANDLORD HAS UNREASONABLY REFUSED THE TENANT'S REQUEST; AND TO ELIMINATE SECTION 13.76.060 (DECONTROL).~~

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance are to regulate residential rent increases in the City of Berkeley and to protect tenants from unwarranted rent increases and arbitrary, discriminatory, or retaliatory evictions, in order to help maintain the diversity of the Berkeley community and to ensure compliance with legal obligations relating to the rental of housing. This legislation is designed to address the City of Berkeley's housing crisis, preserve the public peace, health and safety, and advance the housing policies of the city with regard to low and fixed income persons, minorities, students, handicapped, and the aged; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater protections to tenants in newly constructed units; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater eviction protections for tenants in units that previously did not have such protections; and

WHEREAS, eviction protections will be increased for tenant households that add additional occupants if a landlord has unreasonably refused a tenant's written request; and

WHEREAS, Section 13.76.060 (Decontrol) is to be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, these enumerated amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance will prevent displacement of tenants by extending additional protections and services to tenants who do not enjoy such protections under existing law; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council has elected to submit to the voters at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election, a measure amending Chapter 13.76 of the Berkeley Municipal Code to allow rent control to apply to new construction built as the result of demolition of previously rent-controlled units, allow increased occupancy of rental units, eliminate a provision allowing the City Council to exempt units from rent control if the citywide vacancy rate exceeds 5%, and increase eviction protections for certain landlord-occupied properties; to amend Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 13.76 to allow for the regulation of newly constructed units if permissible under state or local law; to provide eviction protections under the Ordinance for tenants in properties consisting of two units where one unit is a landlord's principal place of residence and one unit was a landlord's principal place of residence as of December 31, 1979 and eviction protections to tenants residing on a property containing a single family dwelling and a lawfully established Accessory Dwelling Unit where the landlord occupies a unit at the property; to provide eviction protections for tenants that add additional occupants to their household after the landlord has unreasonably refused a written request to do so; and to eliminate Section 13.76.060 (Decontrol) from the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10002 and 10403 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is requested to consolidate the City of Berkeley General Municipal Election with the Statewide General Election to be held November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to submit this measure to be placed upon the ballot at said consolidated election.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above enumerated measure requires a majority vote threshold for passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285 (b), the City Council hereby adopts the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285 (a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Ordinance measure shall appear and be printed upon the ballots to be used at said election as follows:

CITY OF BERKELEY ORDINANCE	
<u>Shall the measure amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to allow rent control to apply to new construction built as a result of demolition of rent-controlled units, where not prohibited by state law; allow a greater number of occupants per rental unit; eliminate a provision allowing the City Council to exempt units from rent control if the citywide vacancy rate exceeds 5% over six months; and limit evictions for certain landlord-occupied properties be adopted?</u>	YES
<del>Shall the measure amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to: allow, to the extent that state or local permits, for the regulation of newly-constructed units;</del>	NO

<del>to provide eviction protections to tenants in certain two-unit properties where such eviction protections previously did not apply; to provide eviction protections to tenants who add additional occupants after the landlord has unreasonably denied such a request; and to eliminate Section 13.76.060 be adopted?</del>	
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the text of the measure be shown as Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Exhibits

A: Text of Measure



Exhibit A

ORDINANCE NO. ##,###-N.S.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY AMENDING CHAPTER 13.76 OF THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW RENT CONTROL TO APPLY TO NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS WHERE STATE AND LOCAL LAW DO NOT PROHIBIT RENT CONTROL AND SPECIFICALLY TO UNITS BUILT AS THE RESULT OF DEMOLITION OF PREVIOUSLY RENT-CONTROLLED UNITS; ALLOW INCREASED OCCUPANCY OF RENTAL UNITS; ELIMINATE PROVISION ALLOWING CITY COUNCIL TO EXEMPT UNITS FROM RENT CONTROL IF CITY'S VACANCY RATE EXCEEDS 5% OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD; AND INCREASE EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN LANDLORD-OCCUPIED PROPERTIES.

~~AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY AMENDING BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.76 TO ALLOW, TO THE EXTENT THAT STATE OR LOCAL LAW PERMITS, FOR THE REGULATION OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, UNITS CREATED PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 330 (HOUSING CRISIS ACT OF 2019); TO ADD EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR RENTAL UNITS IN A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CONSISTING OF TWO UNITS WHERE ONE OF THE UNITS IS OCCUPIED BY A LANDLORD AS THEIR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND WHERE ONE OF THE TWO UNITS WAS OWNER OCCUPIED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1979 AND EVICTION PROTECTIONS TO TENANTS IN RENTAL UNITS CONTAINING A SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING AND ONE LAWFULLY ESTABLISHED ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT WHERE THE LANDLORD OCCUPIES A UNIT IN THE SAME PROPERTY; TO PROHIBIT EVICTIONS BASED ON THE ADDITION OF OCCUPANTS IF THE LANDLORD HAS UNREASONABLY REFUSED THE TENANT'S REQUEST; AND TO ELIMINATE SECTION 13.76.060 (DECONTROL)~~

BE IT ORDAINED by ~~t~~The People of the City of Berkeley ~~do ordain~~ as follows:

Section 1. Section 13.76.040 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**13.76.040 Definitions.**

- A. "Board" refers to the elected Rent Stabilization Board established by this chapter and Article XVII of the Charter of the City of Berkeley.
- B. "Commissioners" means the members of the board who are denominated commissioners.
- C. "Housing services" include but are not limited to repairs, maintenance, painting, providing light, hot and cold water, elevator service, window shades and screens, storage, kitchen, bath and laundry facilities and privileges, janitor services, refuse removal, furnishing, telephone, parking and any other benefit, privilege or facility connected with the use or occupancy of any rental unit. Services to a rental unit shall include a proportionate part of services provided to common facilities of the building in which the rental unit is contained.
- D. "Landlord" means an owner of record, lessor, sublessor or any other person or entity entitled to receive rent for the use or occupancy of any rental unit, or an agent, representative or successor of any of the foregoing.
- E. "Rent" means the consideration, including any deposit, bonus, benefit or gratuity demanded or received for or in connection with the use or occupancy of rental units and housing services. Such consideration shall include, but not be limited to, monies and fair market value of goods or services rendered to or for the benefit of the landlord under the rental agreement.
- F. "Rental agreement" means an agreement, oral, written or implied, between a landlord and a tenant for use or occupancy of a rental unit and for housing services.
- G. "Rental unit" means any unit in any real property, including the land appurtenant thereto, rented or available for rent for residential use or occupancy (including units covered by the Berkeley Live/Work Ordinance No. 5217-NS), located in the City of Berkeley, together with all housing services connected with use or occupancy of such property such as common areas and recreational facilities held out for use by the tenant.
- H. "Property" means a parcel of real property which is assessed and taxed as an undivided whole.

I. "Tenant" means any renter, tenant, subtenant, lessee, or sublessee of a rental unit, or successor to a renter's interest, or any group of tenants, subtenants, lessees, or sublessees of any rental unit, or any other person entitled to the use or occupancy of such rental unit.

J. "Skilled nursing facility" means a health facility or a distinct part of a hospital which provides the following basic services: skilled nursing care and supportive care to patients whose primary need is for availability of skilled nursing care on an extended basis. It provides 24-hour inpatient care and, as a minimum, includes medical, nursing, dietary, pharmaceutical services and an activity program. The facility shall have effective arrangements, confirmed in writing, through which services required by the patients, but not regularly provided within the facility, can be obtained promptly when needed.

K. "Health facility" means any facility, place or building which is organized, maintained and operated for the diagnosis, care and treatment of human illness, physical or mental, including convalescence and rehabilitation and including care during and after pregnancy, or for any one or more of these purposes, for one or more persons, to which such persons are admitted for a 24-hour stay or longer.

L. "Recognized tenant organization" means any group of tenants, residing in rental units in the same building or in different buildings operated by the same management company, agent or landlord, which requests to be so designated.

M. "Rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent which a landlord may charge on any rental unit covered by this chapter.

N. "Base rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent established under Section 13.76.100 of this chapter.

O. "Fees" means for the purpose of this chapter, a charge fixed by law for services of public officers or for use of a privilege under control of government.

P. "Nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education" means a post secondary educational institution whose legal status under the California Education Code is verified by an annual validation receipt from the California State Department of

Education, and which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or the Association of Theological Schools and which is exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and under Section 23701(d) of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and which, if otherwise required by law to do so, has obtained a valid unrevoked letter or ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or from the Franchise Tax Board which states that the organization so qualifies for exemption from taxation.

Q. "Newly Constructed" means a rental unit created after June 30, 1980. For purposes of this definition, the date a unit was created is based upon the date of the first certificate of occupancy issued for the subject unit. However, in the event of the repeal or amendment of Civil Code Section 1954.52, such that "certificate of occupancy" is no longer the operative standard set forth under state law, the date a unit was created shall be determined by the final inspection approval by the City.

R. Notwithstanding any other provision in this ordinance, and to the extent that state or local law does not prohibit a local jurisdiction from regulating the rent on a residential rental unit, such units shall not be exempt as "newly constructed units" and, unless otherwise exempt, shall be covered by all provisions of this chapter. This includes, but is not limited to, any residential rental units created as a result of demolition or replacement where such demolition or replacement is affected via the creation of a "housing development project" as defined in the Housing Crisis Act of 2019 (Senate Bill 330).

Section 2: Section 13.76.050 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

### **13.76.050 Applicability**

This chapter shall apply to all real property that is being rented or is available for rent for residential use in whole or in part, except for the following:

A. Rental units which are owned by any government agency. However, the exemption of units owned by the Berkeley Housing Authority from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration;

Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter.

B. Rental units which are rented primarily to transient guests for use or occupancy less than fourteen consecutive days in establishments such as hotels, motels, inns, tourist homes, and rooming and boarding houses. However, the payment of rent every fourteen days or less shall not by itself exempt any unit from coverage by this chapter.

C. Rental units in nonprofit cooperatives owned and controlled by a majority of the residents.

D. Rental units leased to tenants assisted under the Section 8 program (42 U.S.C. Section 1437f) or the Shelter Plus Care Program (42 U.S.C. 11403 et. seq.) or similar federally funded rent subsidy program. Except as may be preempted by state or federal law, the exemption of such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. However, the exemption from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 shall apply only for so long as the rent demanded does not exceed the authorized Payment Standard, which, for purposes of this subsection, is the maximum monthly rental assistance potentially available to an assisted household before deducting the household share of income paid for rent and utilities as established by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency. For units where the rent demanded exceeds the Payment Standard, the Payment Standard or an initial rent above the Payment Standard if approved by the Berkeley Housing Authority, as reported to the board by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency, shall become the unit's base rent ceiling and the reference point from which the rent ceiling shall be adjusted in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.

E. Rental units in any hospital, skilled nursing facility, health facility, asylum, or non-profit home for the aged.

F. Rental units in a residential property which is divided into a maximum of four units where one of such units is occupied by the landlord as his/her principal residence. Any exemption of rental units established under this subsection (13.76.050 F.) shall be limited to rental units that would have been exempt under the provisions of this chapter had this chapter been in effect on December 31, 1979. After July 1, 1982, this exemption shall no longer apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into three or four units. It shall continue to apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into two units, and which meet all the other requirements of this subsection (13.76.050F). However, the exemption of such rental units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.070, Security Deposits; Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. Rental units which become non-exempt under this provision shall have the provisions of Subsections 13.76.080I and 13.76.100C. applied to them.

G. A rental unit in a residential property where the landlord shares kitchen or bath facilities with the tenant(s) of such rental unit and where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence.

H. For the purposes of Subsections 13.76.050 F. and G., the term landlord shall be defined only as the owner of record holding at least 50% interest in the property.

I. Newly constructed rental units, as defined in Section 13.76.040Q. However, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. To the extent that state law permits, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to the first 20 years after completion of construction.

J. A rental unit which is rented by a nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education to a tenant or tenants who are student(s), faculty, or staff of the institution or of a member school of the Graduate Theological Union, provided, however, that the institution owned the unit as of January 1, 1988.

K. A rental unit in a residential property owned by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is rented to a low income tenant and subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency that controls the unit's rent levels. However, the exemption for such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings of this chapter and shall apply only for so long as the regulatory agreement is in effect. This exemption shall not apply to rental units at the property that are not subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency or that are rented by a tenant who occupied the unit prior to the property's acquisition by the tax-exempt organization.

L. Rental units in a facility owned or leased by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that has the primary purpose of operating a treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program for qualified clients, where such rental units are provided incident to the client's participation in the primary program and where the client has been informed in writing of the temporary or transitional nature of the housing at the inception of his or her participation in the program. However, except as may be preempted by the Transitional Housing Participant Misconduct Act (California Health and Safety Code Sections 50580 et. seq.) or other state or federal law, such rental units shall not be exempted from the terms of Section 13.76.130, Good Cause Required for Eviction. For purposes of Section 13.76.130.A.2, the client's continued eligibility for participation in the treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program shall be deemed a material term of the client's rental agreement with the program's operator.

M. A rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority recognized by the University of California Berkeley, or a rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority identified by Rent Board Resolution. To qualify for the exemption, the rental unit must be owned by the fraternity or sorority or by an entity whose sole purpose is the maintenance and operation of the fraternity or sorority's rental units for the benefit of the members in order to provide housing to said members at cost.

N. A rental unit in a residential property containing only a Single Family Dwelling (as defined in Subtitle 23F.04 of the Zoning Ordinance) and one lawfully established and fully permitted Accessory Dwelling Unit where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence. This subsection (13.76.050N) shall only apply to properties containing a single Accessory Dwelling Unit, shall only apply to units compliant with all applicable requirements of Chapter 23C.24 ("Accessory Dwelling Units"), and shall only apply to tenancies created after November 7, 2018. However, the exemption of such rental units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.070, Security Deposits; Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter.

O. A dwelling or a unit alienable separate from the title to any other dwelling unit unless the tenancy commenced before January 1, 1996. However, the exemption of such units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. A property owner who owns only one residential unit in the City of Berkeley, and occupied that residential unit for 365 consecutive days as their principal residence immediately prior to renting the unit, and is absent from the unit for a period not to exceed 24 months, and such period is specified in the lease, shall also be exempt from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration, of this Chapter. The exemptions provided in this Section shall apply only as long as the pertinent provisions of California Civil Code Section 1954.50 et. seq. ("Costa-Hawkins") remain in effect and require such an exemption.

Section 3: Section 13.76.060 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

### **13.76.060 Rent Stabilization Board**



A. Composition. There shall be in the city of Berkeley an elected rent stabilization board; the board shall consist of nine commissioners. The board shall elect annually as chairperson one of its members to serve in that capacity.

B. Eligibility. Residents who are duly qualified electors of the city of Berkeley are eligible to serve as commissioners on the board.

C. Full disclosure of holdings. Candidates for the position of commissioner shall fulfill the requirements as set forth in the City Charter in Article III, Section 6 1/2.

In addition, when filing nomination papers, candidates shall submit a verified statement of their interests and dealings in real property, including but not limited to its ownership, sale or management and investment in and association with partnerships, corporations, joint ventures and syndicates engaged in its ownership, sale or management during the previous three years.

D. Election of commissioners. Commissioners shall be elected at the statewide general election held in November of even numbered years.

E. Terms of office. Commissioners' terms of office shall be as set forth in Article XVII of the Berkeley City Charter.

F. Powers and duties. The elected rent stabilization board shall have the power to determine, to arbitrate and to set rent levels, whether through general or individual adjustments, of any unit which has controlled rents under any Berkeley Ordinance, and to administer any Berkeley program which regulates rents and evictions. The board shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Set the rent ceilings for all rental units.
2. Require registration of all rental units under Section 13.76.080.
3. Publicize the manner in which the base rent ceiling is established under Section 13.76.100.
4. To make adjustments in the rent ceiling in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.

5. Set rents at fair and equitable levels in view of and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter.
6. To issue orders, rules and regulations, conduct hearings and charge fees as set below.
7. Make such studies, surveys and investigations, conduct such hearings, and obtain such information as is necessary to carry out its powers and duties.
8. Report annually to the city council of the city of Berkeley on the status of rental housing units covered by this chapter.
9. Request the City Council to remove rent controls under Section 13.76.060Q.
10. Administer oaths and affirmations and subpoena witnesses and relevant documents.
11. Establish rules and regulations for settling civil claims under Section 13.76.150.
12. Seek injunctive relief under Section 13.76.150.
13. Pursue civil remedies in courts of appropriate jurisdiction.
14. Intervene as an interested party in any litigation brought before a court of appropriate jurisdiction by a landlord or tenant with respect to rental units covered by this chapter.
15. Hold public hearings.
16. Charge and collect registration fees, including penalties for late payments.
17. Other powers necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter which are not inconsistent with the terms of this chapter.

18. Except as provided in Section 13.76.060N of this chapter, the board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses for its operation without the use of general fund monies of the city of Berkeley.

G. Rules and Regulations: The board shall issue and follow such rules and regulations, including those which are contained in this Chapter, as will further the purposes of this Chapter. The board shall publicize its rules and regulations prior to promulgation in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the city of Berkeley.

All rules and regulations and relevant documents explaining the decisions, orders, and policies of the board shall be kept in the board's office and shall be available to the public for inspection and copying.

The board shall publicize this Chapter so that all residents of Berkeley will have the opportunity to become informed about their legal rights and duties under this Chapter. The board shall prepare a brochure which fully describes the legal rights and duties of landlords and tenants under this Chapter. The brochure shall be made available to the public.

H. Meetings: The board shall hold regularly scheduled meetings. Special meetings shall be called at the request of at least a majority of the commissioners of the board. The board shall hold its initial meeting no later than July 15, 1980.

I. Quorum: Five commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the board.

J. Voting: The affirmative vote of five commissioners of the board is required for a decision, including all motions, rules, regulations, and orders of the board.

K. Compensation: The rent stabilization board shall be a working board. Commissioners shall be paid compensation and benefits in an amount set by the board in order to compensate commissioners for their time and work performed as required by this chapter and the city charter.

L. Dockets: The board shall maintain and keep in its office all hearing dockets, which shall be available for public inspection.

M. Vacancies: If a vacancy shall occur on the board, a qualified person to fill such vacancy shall be selected in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article V of the City Charter.

N. Financing: The board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses by charging landlords annual registration fees in amounts deemed reasonable by the board. The registration fee for partially-exempt units shall reasonably approximate the cost of registration and counseling services for such units, and shall not include the cost of services from which such units are exempt. Such registration fees shall not be passed on to tenants in the form of rent increases except with the express prior approval of the board. The board is also empowered to request and receive funding, when and if necessary, from the city of Berkeley and/or any other available source for its reasonable and necessary expenses, including expenses incurred at the request of the City.

O. Staff: The board shall be a working board and shall employ such staff as may be necessary to perform its functions efficiently and as provided by Berkeley Ordinance.

P. Registration: The board shall require the registration of all rental units covered by this chapter as provided for in Section 13.76.080. The board may also require landlords to provide current information supplementing their registration statements.

~~Q.—Decontrol: If the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the city of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six month period, the city council is empowered, upon request by the board, at its discretion and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter, to exempt rental units covered by this chapter from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.100, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 of this chapter. In determining the vacancy rate for the city of Berkeley the board and the city council shall consider all available data and may conduct their own survey. If units are exempted pursuant to this Subsection Q coverage shall be reimposed if the city council finds that the average annual vacancy rate has thereafter fallen below five percent. Prior to any decision to exempt or renew coverage for rental units under this Subsection Q the board shall hold at least two public hearings.~~

~~R. Q.~~ Conflict of Interest: Commissioners shall be subject to the requirements of the California Political Reform Act and other applicable state and local conflict of interest codes. Commissioners shall not necessarily be disqualified from exercising any of their powers and duties on the grounds of a conflict of interest solely on the basis of their status as a landlord or tenant. However, a commissioner shall be disqualified from ruling on a petition for an individual adjustment of a rent ceiling under Section 13.76.120, where the commissioner is either the landlord of the property or a tenant residing in the property that is involved in the petition.

Section 4: Section 13.76.130 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows

**13.76.130 Good cause required for eviction**

A. No landlord shall be entitled to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter unless said landlord shows the existence of one of the following grounds:

1. The tenant has failed to pay rent to which the landlord is legally entitled pursuant to the lease or rental agreement and under the provisions of state or local law, unless the tenant has withheld rent pursuant to applicable law; and said failure has continued after service on the tenant of a written notice setting forth the amount of rent then due and requiring it to be paid, within a period, specified in the notice, of not less than three days. Rent that is lawfully withheld pursuant to emergency legislation that authorizes rent withholding during the effective period of a state of emergency applicable in Berkeley shall not constitute grounds for recovery of possession except as expressly provided in the applicable emergency legislation. Emergency legislation adopted during the emergency may prohibit recovery of possession for lawfully withheld rent even after the expiration of a state or local emergency.

2. The tenant has continued, after written notice to cease, to substantially violate any of the material terms of the rental agreement, except the obligation to surrender possession on proper notice as required by law, and provided that such terms are reasonable and legal and have been accepted in writing by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement; and provided further that, where such terms have been accepted by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement subsequent to the initial creation of the tenancy, the landlord shall have first notified the tenant in writing that he or she need not accept such terms or agree to their being made part of the rental agreement. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this chapter or in the rental agreement, a landlord is not entitled to recover possession of a rental unit under this subsection where a tenant permits his or her rental unit to be occupied by a subtenant, provided:

- a. The landlord has unreasonably withheld consent to the subtenancy; and
- b. The tenant remains an actual occupant of the rental unit; and
- c. The number of tenants and subtenants actually occupying the rental unit does not exceed ~~the number of occupants originally allowed by the rental agreement or the board's regulations, whichever is greater~~ the maximum number of occupants legally allowed under Section 503.2.503(b)(2) of the Uniform Housing Code as incorporated by California Health & Safety Code Section 17922, except where prohibited by law.
- d. Withholding of consent by the landlord shall be deemed to be unreasonable where:
  - (i) ~~The tenant's written request for consent was given at least two weeks prior to commencement of the subtenancy; tenant has made a written request to the landlord to either sublet the unit and/or add additional occupants, and the landlord has failed to respond in writing within fourteen (14) days of the tenant's request; or~~
  - (ii) The proposed new subtenant has, upon the landlord's written request, completed the landlord's standard form application or

provided sufficient information to allow the landlord to conduct a standard background check, including references and credit, income and other reasonable background information, and the proposed new subtenant or additional occupant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and or

~~-(iii)—The proposed new subtenant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and~~

~~(iii iv)~~ The landlord has not articulated in writing a well-founded reason for refusing consent. A landlord's reasonable denial may not be based on the proposed occupant's lack of credit worthiness or income if that occupant will not be legally obligated to pay some or all of the rent to the landlord.

e. Where a landlord can establish that the proposed additional occupant presents a direct threat to the health, safety, or security of other residents of the property, the landlord shall have the right to deny the proposed tenant's occupancy.

f. Before initiating an action to recover possession based on the violation of a lawful obligation or covenant of tenancy regarding subletting or limits on the number of occupants in the rental unit, the landlord shall serve the tenant a written notice of the violation that provides the tenant with a minimum of fourteen (14) days to cure the violation. The notice must also inform the tenant(s) of their right to add subtenants and/or add additional occupants pursuant to this section.

3. The tenant has willfully caused or allowed substantial damage to the premises beyond normal wear and tear and has refused, after written notice, to pay the reasonable costs of repairing such damage and cease damaging said premises.

4. The tenant has refused to agree to a new rental agreement upon expiration of a prior rental agreement, but only where the new rental agreement contains provisions that are substantially identical to the prior rental agreement, and is not inconsistent with local, state and federal laws.
5. The tenant has continued, following written notice to cease, to be so disorderly as to destroy the peace and quiet of other tenants or occupants of the premises or the tenant is otherwise subject to eviction pursuant to subdivision 4 of Code of Civil Procedure Section 1161.
6. The tenant has, after written notice to cease, refused the landlord access to the unit as required by state or local law.
7.
  - a. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to undertake substantial repairs which are necessary to bring the property into compliance with applicable codes and laws affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building or where necessary under an outstanding notice of code violations affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building, and where such repairs cannot be completed while the tenant resides on the premises.
  - b. Where such repairs can be completed in a period of 60 or fewer days, and the tenant, within 30 days after the service of a notice of termination of his or her tenancy, agrees in writing to vacate the premises during the period required to complete the repairs at no charge to the landlord, other than abatement of the obligation to pay rent for the premises during the period required to complete the repairs, the landlord may not recover possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.) unless the tenant shall fail or refuse to vacate the premises in accordance with such agreement.
  - c. Where the landlord owns any other residential rental units in the City of Berkeley, and any such unit is vacant and available at the time of premises or the entry of a judgment by a court of competent



jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, the landlord shall, as a condition of obtaining possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), notify tenant in writing of the existence and address of each such vacant rental unit and offer tenant the right, at the tenant's option:

(i) To enter into a rental agreement (to be designated as a "temporary rental agreement") on any available rental unit which the tenant may choose, at a rent not to exceed the lesser of the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit or the lawful rent in effect, at the time of the notice of termination of tenancy, on the unit being vacated, said rental agreement to be for a term of the lesser of ninety days or until completion of repairs on the rental unit being vacated by tenant; or

(ii) To enter into a new rental agreement or lease for such available rental unit at a rent not to exceed the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit.

d. Where the landlord recovers possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon completion of the required work. In the event the landlord files an application for an individual rent adjustment within six months following the completion of the work, the tenant shall be a party to such proceeding the same as if he or she were still in possession, unless the landlord shall submit, with such application, a written waiver by the tenant of his or her right to re-occupy the premises pursuant to this subsection.

8. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit, in order to remove the rental unit from the market by demolition.

9. Owner Move-in Evictions.

- a. The landlord seeks in good faith with honest intent and without ulterior motive to recover possession for his/her own use and occupancy as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months; or
- b. For the use and occupancy as the principal residence by the landlord's spouse or by the landlord's child, or parent for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.
- c. For the purposes of this subsection (13.76.130A.9.), the term landlord shall be defined as the owner of record, as of the time of giving of a notice terminating tenancy, and at all times thereafter to and including the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, holding at least a 50% interest in the property and shall not include a lessor, sublessor, or agent of the owner of record.
- d. All notices terminating tenancy pursuant to subsection 13.76.130.A.9 shall include the following: the existence and potential availability of relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g; the existence of tenant protections for families with minor children as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.k; the name and relationship of any qualified relative for purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9b; and the landlord's ownership interest in any residential properties in the City of Berkeley where such interest, in any form whatsoever, is ten percent (10%) or greater. The landlord shall, within ten days of giving notice, file a copy of the notice terminating tenancy with the Rent Board.
- e. The landlord may not recover possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.9.) if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley, was, at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the rental unit, already vacant and available, or if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley,

thereafter becomes vacant at any time until the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord. In an action by or against the tenant, evidence that a comparable unit was vacant and available within ninety days prior to the date of a notice terminating the tenant's tenancy shall create a presumption that such unit was vacant and available at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the premises. "Presumption" means that the court must find the existence of the presumed fact unless and until the contrary is proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

f. The landlord shall offer any non-comparable unit owned by the landlord to the tenant if a non-comparable unit becomes available before the recovery of possession of the tenant's unit at a rate based on the rent the tenant is paying with an upward or downward adjustment based on the condition, size, and other amenities of the replacement unit. Disputes concerning the initial rent for the replacement unit shall be determined by the Rent Board.

g. Where a landlord recovers possession of a unit under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord is required to provide standard relocation assistance to tenant households where at least one occupant has resided in the unit for one year or more in the amount of \$15,000. The landlord is required to provide an additional \$5,000 relocation assistance to tenant households that qualify as low-income; or include disabled or elderly tenants; minor children; or tenancies which began prior to January 1, 1999. The relocation fees set forth above shall be increased in accordance with the rules set forth in subsection 13.76.130A.9.h below. The procedures for payment of this relocation assistance are set forth below in subsection 13.76.130A.9.p.(i) through (iv). The following definitions apply for any tenant households evicted for owner move-in under subsection 13.76.130A.9:

(i) "Low-income tenants" means persons and families whose income does not exceed the qualifying limits for lower income families as established and amended from time to time pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, or as otherwise defined in Health and Safety Code Section 50079.5.

(ii) A person is "disabled" if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more of a person's major life activities within the meaning of the California Fair Housing and Employment Act (Government Code § 12926).

(iii) "Elderly" is defined as sixty (60) years of age or older.

(iv) "Minor child" means a person who is under 18 years of age.

(v) "Tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999" is a tenancy where an "original occupant" (as defined by Berkeley Rent Board Regulation) still permanently resides in the rental unit.

h. Effective January 1 of each year beginning in 2018, the fees set forth above in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g., may be increased in an amount based on the Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Region averaged for the 12-month period ending June 30, of each year, as determined and published by United States Department of Labor. Any increase shall be published by the Board on or before October 31st of each year.

i. It shall be evidence that the landlord has acted in bad faith if the landlord or the landlord's qualified relative for whom the tenant was evicted does not move into the rental unit within three months from the date of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or occupy said unit as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.

j. Once a landlord has successfully recovered possession of a rental unit pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a., then no other current or

future landlords may recover possession of any other rental unit on the property pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a. It is the intention of this subsection that only one specific unit per property may be used for such occupancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a and that once a unit is used for such occupancy, all future occupancies under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a must be of that same unit.

k. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit has a custodial or family relationship with a minor child who is residing in the unit, the tenant with the custodial or family relationship has resided in the unit for 12 months or more, and the effective date of the notice of termination of tenancy falls during the school year. The term "school year" as used in this subsection means the first day of instruction for the Fall Semester through the first day of the month following the last day of instruction for the Spring Semester, as posted on the Berkeley Unified School District website for each year.

(i) For purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9.k, the term "custodial relationship" means that the person is a legal guardian of the child, or has a caregiver's authorization affidavit for the child as defined by Section 6550 of the California Family Code, or that the person has provided full-time custodial care of the child pursuant to an agreement with the child's legal guardian or court-recognized caregiver and has been providing that care for at least one year or half of the child's lifetime, whichever is less. The term "family relationship" means that the person is the biological or adoptive parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt or uncle of the child, or the spouse or domestic partner of such relations.

l. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit:

(i) Is 60 years of age or older and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(ii) Is disabled and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(iii) Has resided on the property for five years or more and the landlord has a ten percent (10%) or greater ownership interest, in any form whatsoever, in five or more residential rental units in the City of Berkeley.

m. A tenant who claims to be a member of one of the classes protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I must submit a statement, with supporting evidence, to the landlord. A tenant's failure to submit a statement at any point prior to the trial date of an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit shall be deemed an admission that the tenant is not protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I. A landlord may challenge a tenant's claim of protected status by raising it as an issue at trial in an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit.

n. The provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.9.I shall not apply to the following situations:

(i) Where a person is the owner of three or fewer residential units in the City of Berkeley and has no greater than a nine percent (9%) ownership interest in any other residential unit in the City of Berkeley; or

(ii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I and the landlord's qualified relative who is seeking possession of a unit subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.b is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii) above; or

(iii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater

is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I, the landlord has owned the unit for which possession is being sought subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a for five years or more and is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii).

o. Where a landlord recovers possession under Subsection 13.76.130A.9, the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon its next vacancy.

p. When a landlord is required to provide a relocation assistance payment subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, the payment shall be divided among the tenants occupying the rental unit at the time of service of the notice to terminate tenancy.

(i) Within ten days of service of a notice terminating tenancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord shall deposit the standard relocation assistance (for households where an occupant has resided one year or more) with the City or its designated agent to be held in escrow. Within ten days after the funds are deposited into escrow, the City shall release the standard relocation assistance to the tenant household, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(ii) In order to claim entitlement to additional relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, a tenant must notify the landlord and the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she is claiming low-income, disabled, elderly, tenant with minor child status, or a claim that the tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999 (hereinafter "entitlement to additional relocation assistance") per subsection 13.76.130A.9.g within 30 days of filing of notice of termination of tenancy with the Rent Stabilization Program. The landlord shall deposit the additional relocation payment with the Rent Stabilization Program or its designated agent to be held in escrow for any tenant

household who claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance within ten days after such notice claiming entitlement to additional relocation assistance is mailed. Within ten days after the funds are deposited into escrow, the Rent Stabilization Program shall authorize release of the relocation assistance to the tenant household that claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(iii) When a tenant household's eligibility to receive standard or additional relocation assistance as described in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g is disputed, either party may file a Rent Board petition requesting a determination of eligibility or file a claim in a court of competent jurisdiction. The Rent Stabilization Program shall release disputed relocation assistance funds to either the tenant or the landlord upon receipt of either a written agreement by both the landlord and the affected tenant, an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or an order of a City or Rent Board hearing examiner issued pursuant to a petition process conducted in accordance with applicable Rent Board Regulations.

(iv) The landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy prior to any release of relocation payment to the tenants by serving written notice stating such rescission on the tenants. In such instance, the relocation payment shall be released to the landlord. Subsequent to the release of any relocation payment to the tenants, the landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy only upon the written agreement of the tenants to remain in possession of the rental unit. If the tenants remain in possession of the rental units after service of a landlord's written notice of rescission of the eviction, the tenants shall provide an accounting to the landlord of the amount of the relocation payment expended for moving costs, return to the landlord that portion of the relocation



payment not expended for moving costs, and assign to the landlord all rights to recover the amount of relocation payment paid to third parties. If a rescission occurs under this subsection, the tenant(s) shall continue the tenancy on the same terms as before the notice was served.

(v) Where a landlord has served a notice of termination of tenancy on a tenant prior to the date that this amendment takes effect and the notice of termination of tenancy has not expired, the landlord shall deposit the full relocation payment with the City or its designated agent to be held in escrow for the tenants if the tenants have not vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment, and the landlord shall pay the full relocation payment to the tenants if the tenants have vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment. Said deposit in escrow or payment to the tenants shall be made within ten days of the effective date of this amendment.

(vi) Failure of the landlord to make any payment specified herein shall be a defense to any action to recover possession of a rental unit based upon the landlord's termination of tenancy notice pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9). In addition, if the tenants of a rental unit have vacated the unit as a result of a notice of termination of tenancy pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130.A.9), and the landlord fails to make any payment specified herein, the landlord shall be liable to the tenants for three times the amount of the payment as well as reasonable attorney fees.

q. A tenant who prevails in an action brought under this subsection (13.76.130A.9), in addition to any damages and/or costs awarded by the court, shall be entitled to recover all reasonable attorney's fees incurred in bringing or defending the action.

r. At least twice annually, Rent Board staff shall report to the Rent Board regarding the occupancy status of units possession of which has been recovered pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9) within the prior 36 months.

s. If any provision or clause of this subsection (13.76.130A.9) or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional or to be otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or clauses, and to this end the provisions and applications of this subsection are severable.

10. A landlord or lessor seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence, where the landlord or lessor has previously occupied the rental unit as his/her principal residence and has the right to recover possession of the unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence under an existing rental agreement with the current tenants.

11. The tenant fails to vacate a rental unit occupied under the terms of a temporary rental agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.7.c., following expiration of the term of said temporary rental agreement, and following written notice of the availability of tenant's previous rental unit for re-occupancy by tenant (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the completion of repairs on the old rental unit), or of written notice to quit (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the expiration of a period of 90 days).

B. A landlord's failure to specify good cause as listed above in subsections 1. through 11. of Section 13.76.130A. in the notice of termination or the notice to quit and in the complaint for possession shall be a defense to any action for possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter.

C. In any action to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter, except an action to recover possession under subsection

13.76.130A.7., 13.76.130.A.8, or 13.76.130.A.11., a landlord shall allege, as to each rental unit on the property, substantial compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with the implied warranty of habitability and compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with Sections 13.76.100 (Rent Ceiling) and 13.76.080 (Rent Registration) of this chapter.

D. The landlord shall file with the board a copy of any notice of termination, notice to quit, and summons and complaint, within ten days after the tenant has been served with such notice or summons and complaint.

Section 5. Severability. If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The People of the City of Berkeley hereby declare that they would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional. Should any provision of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unlawful, unenforceable, or otherwise void, that determination shall have no effect on any other provision of this Ordinance or the application of this Ordinance to any other person or circumstance and, to that end, the provisions hereof are severable.

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE A MEASURE AMENDING CHAPTER 13.76 OF THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW RENT CONTROL TO APPLY TO NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS WHERE STATE AND LOCAL LAW DO NOT PROHIBIT RENT CONTROL, AND SPECIFICALLY TO UNITS BUILT AS THE RESULT OF DEMOLITION OF PREVIOUSLY RENT-CONTROLLED UNITS; ALLOW INCREASED OCCUPANCY OF RENTAL UNITS WITHOUT THREAT OF EVICTION; ELIMINATE PROVISION ALLOWING CITY COUNCIL TO EXEMPT UNITS FROM RENT CONTROL IF CITY'S VACANCY RATE EXCEEDS 5% OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD; AND INCREASE EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN LANDLORD-OCCUPIED PROPERTIES.

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance are to regulate residential rent increases in the City of Berkeley and to protect tenants from unwarranted rent increases and arbitrary, discriminatory, or retaliatory evictions, in order to help maintain the diversity of the Berkeley community and to ensure compliance with legal obligations relating to the rental of housing. This legislation is designed to address the City of Berkeley's housing crisis, preserve the public peace, health and safety, and advance the housing policies of the city with regard to low and fixed income persons, minorities, students, handicapped, and the aged; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater protections to tenants in newly constructed units; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater eviction protections for tenants in units that previously did not have such protections; and

WHEREAS, eviction protections will be increased for tenant households that add additional occupants if a landlord has unreasonably refused a tenant's written request; and

WHEREAS, Section 13.76.060 (Decontrol) is to be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, these enumerated amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance will prevent displacement of tenants by extending additional protections and services to tenants who do not enjoy such protections under existing law; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council has elected to submit to the voters at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election, a measure amending Chapter 13.76 of

the Berkeley Municipal Code to allow rent control to apply to new construction built as the result of demolition of previously rent-controlled units, allow increased occupancy of rental units, eliminate a provision allowing the City Council to exempt units from rent control if the citywide vacancy rate exceeds 5%, and increase eviction protections for certain landlord-occupied properties; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10002 and 10403 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is requested to consolidate the City of Berkeley General Municipal Election with the Statewide General Election to be held November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to submit this measure to be placed upon the ballot at said consolidated election.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above enumerated measure requires a majority vote threshold for passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the

statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285 (b), the City Council hereby adopts the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285 (a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Ordinance measure shall appear and be printed upon the ballots to be used at said election as follows:

CITY OF BERKELEY ORDINANCE	
Shall the measure amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to allow rent control to apply to new construction built as a result of demolition of rent-controlled units, where not prohibited by state law; allow a greater number of occupants per rental unit; eliminate a provision allowing the City Council to exempt units from rent control if the citywide vacancy rate exceeds 5% over six months; and limit evictions for certain landlord-occupied properties be adopted?	YES
	NO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the text of the measure be shown as Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Exhibits

A: Text of Measure

Exhibit A

ORDINANCE NO. ##,###-N.S.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY AMENDING CHAPTER 13.76 OF THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW RENT CONTROL TO APPLY TO NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS WHERE STATE AND LOCAL LAW DO NOT PROHIBIT RENT CONTROL AND SPECIFICALLY TO UNITS BUILT AS THE RESULT OF DEMOLITION OF PREVIOUSLY RENT-CONTROLLED UNITS; ALLOW INCREASED OCCUPANCY OF RENTAL UNITS; ELIMINATE PROVISION ALLOWING CITY COUNCIL TO EXEMPT UNITS FROM RENT CONTROL IF CITY'S VACANCY RATE EXCEEDS 5% OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD; AND INCREASE EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN LANDLORD-OCCUPIED PROPERTIES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. Section 13.76.040 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**13.76.040 Definitions.**

- A. "Board" refers to the elected Rent Stabilization Board established by this chapter and Article XVII of the Charter of the City of Berkeley.
- B. "Commissioners" means the members of the board who are denominated commissioners.
- C. "Housing services" include but are not limited to repairs, maintenance, painting, providing light, hot and cold water, elevator service, window shades and screens, storage, kitchen, bath and laundry facilities and privileges, janitor services, refuse removal, furnishing, telephone, parking and any other benefit, privilege or facility connected with the use or occupancy of any rental unit. Services to a rental unit shall include a proportionate part of services provided to common facilities of the building in which the rental unit is contained.

D. "Landlord" means an owner of record, lessor, sublessor or any other person or entity entitled to receive rent for the use or occupancy of any rental unit, or an agent, representative or successor of any of the foregoing.

E. "Rent" means the consideration, including any deposit, bonus, benefit or gratuity demanded or received for or in connection with the use or occupancy of rental units and housing services. Such consideration shall include, but not be limited to, monies and fair market value of goods or services rendered to or for the benefit of the landlord under the rental agreement.

F. "Rental agreement" means an agreement, oral, written or implied, between a landlord and a tenant for use or occupancy of a rental unit and for housing services.

G. "Rental unit" means any unit in any real property, including the land appurtenant thereto, rented or available for rent for residential use or occupancy (including units covered by the Berkeley Live/Work Ordinance No. 5217-NS), located in the City of Berkeley, together with all housing services connected with use or occupancy of such property such as common areas and recreational facilities held out for use by the tenant.

H. "Property" means a parcel of real property which is assessed and taxed as an undivided whole.

I. "Tenant" means any renter, tenant, subtenant, lessee, or sublessee of a rental unit, or successor to a renter's interest, or any group of tenants, subtenants, lessees, or sublessees of any rental unit, or any other person entitled to the use or occupancy of such rental unit.

J. "Skilled nursing facility" means a health facility or a distinct part of a hospital which provides the following basic services: skilled nursing care and supportive care to patients whose primary need is for availability of skilled nursing care on an extended basis. It provides 24-hour inpatient care and, as a minimum, includes medical, nursing, dietary, pharmaceutical services and an activity program. The facility shall have effective arrangements, confirmed in writing, through which services required by the patients, but not regularly provided within the facility, can be obtained promptly when needed.



K. "Health facility" means any facility, place or building which is organized, maintained and operated for the diagnosis, care and treatment of human illness, physical or mental, including convalescence and rehabilitation and including care during and after pregnancy, or for any one or more of these purposes, for one or more persons, to which such persons are admitted for a 24-hour stay or longer.

L. "Recognized tenant organization" means any group of tenants, residing in rental units in the same building or in different buildings operated by the same management company, agent or landlord, which requests to be so designated.

M. "Rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent which a landlord may charge on any rental unit covered by this chapter.

N. "Base rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent established under Section 13.76.100 of this chapter.

O. "Fees" means for the purpose of this chapter, a charge fixed by law for services of public officers or for use of a privilege under control of government.

P. "Nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education" means a post secondary educational institution whose legal status under the California Education Code is verified by an annual validation receipt from the California State Department of Education, and which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or the Association of Theological Schools and which is exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and under Section 23701(d) of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and which, if otherwise required by law to do so, has obtained a valid unrevoked letter or ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or from the Franchise Tax Board which states that the organization so qualifies for exemption from taxation.

Q. "Newly Constructed" means a rental unit created after June 30, 1980. For purposes of this definition, the date a unit was created is based upon the date of the first certificate of occupancy issued for the subject unit. However, in the event of the repeal or amendment of Civil Code Section 1954.52, such that "certificate of occupancy" is no longer the operative standard set forth under state law, the date a unit was created shall be determined by the final inspection approval by the City.

R. Notwithstanding any other provision in this ordinance, and to the extent that state or local law does not prohibit a local jurisdiction from regulating the rent on a residential rental unit, such units shall not be exempt as “newly constructed units” and, unless otherwise exempt, shall be covered by all provisions of this chapter. This includes, but is not limited to, any residential rental units created as a result of demolition or replacement where such demolition or replacement is affected via the creation of a “housing development project” as defined in the Housing Crisis Act of 2019 (Senate Bill 330).

Section 2: Section 13.76.050 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

### **13.76.050 Applicability**

This chapter shall apply to all real property that is being rented or is available for rent for residential use in whole or in part, except for the following:

- A. Rental units which are owned by any government agency. However, the exemption of units owned by the Berkeley Housing Authority from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter.
- B. Rental units which are rented primarily to transient guests for use or occupancy less than fourteen consecutive days in establishments such as hotels, motels, inns, tourist homes, and rooming and boarding houses. However, the payment of rent every fourteen days or less shall not by itself exempt any unit from coverage by this chapter.
- C. Rental units in nonprofit cooperatives owned and controlled by a majority of the residents.
- D. Rental units leased to tenants assisted under the Section 8 program (42 U.S.C. Section 1437f) or the Shelter Plus Care Program (42 U.S.C. 11403 et. seq.) or similar federally funded rent subsidy program. Except as may be preempted by state or federal

law, the exemption of such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. However, the exemption from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 shall apply only for so long as the rent demanded does not exceed the authorized Payment Standard, which, for purposes of this subsection, is the maximum monthly rental assistance potentially available to an assisted household before deducting the household share of income paid for rent and utilities as established by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency. For units where the rent demanded exceeds the Payment Standard, the Payment Standard or an initial rent above the Payment Standard if approved by the Berkeley Housing Authority, as reported to the board by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency, shall become the unit's base rent ceiling and the reference point from which the rent ceiling shall be adjusted in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.

E. Rental units in any hospital, skilled nursing facility, health facility, asylum, or non-profit home for the aged.

F. Rental units in a residential property which is divided into a maximum of four units where one of such units is occupied by the landlord as his/her principal residence. Any exemption of rental units established under this subsection (13.76.050 F.) shall be limited to rental units that would have been exempt under the provisions of this chapter had this chapter been in effect on December 31, 1979. After July 1, 1982, this exemption shall no longer apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into three or four units. It shall continue to apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into two units, and which meet all the other requirements of this subsection (13.76.050F). However, the exemption of such rental units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.070, Security Deposits; Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. Rental units which become non-exempt under this provision shall have the provisions of Subsections 13.76.080I and 13.76.100C. applied to them.

G. A rental unit in a residential property where the landlord shares kitchen or bath facilities with the tenant(s) of such rental unit and where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence.

H. For the purposes of Subsections 13.76.050 F. and G., the term landlord shall be defined only as the owner of record holding at least 50% interest in the property.

I. Newly constructed rental units, as defined in Section 13.76.040 Q. However, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. To the extent that state law permits, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to the first 20 years after completion of construction.

J. A rental unit which is rented by a nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education to a tenant or tenants who are student(s), faculty, or staff of the institution or of a member school of the Graduate Theological Union, provided, however, that the institution owned the unit as of January 1, 1988.

K. A rental unit in a residential property owned by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is rented to a low income tenant and subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency that controls the unit's rent levels. However, the exemption for such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings of this chapter and shall apply only for so long as the regulatory agreement is in effect. This exemption shall not apply to rental units at the property that are not subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency or that are rented by a tenant who occupied the unit prior to the property's acquisition by the tax-exempt organization.

L. Rental units in a facility owned or leased by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that has the

primary purpose of operating a treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program for qualified clients, where such rental units are provided incident to the client's participation in the primary program and where the client has been informed in writing of the temporary or transitional nature of the housing at the inception of his or her participation in the program. However, except as may be preempted by the Transitional Housing Participant Misconduct Act (California Health and Safety Code Sections 50580 et. seq.) or other state or federal law, such rental units shall not be exempted from the terms of Section 13.76.130, Good Cause Required for Eviction. For purposes of Section 13.76.130.A.2, the client's continued eligibility for participation in the treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program shall be deemed a material term of the client's rental agreement with the program's operator.

M. A rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority recognized by the University of California Berkeley, or a rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority identified by Rent Board Resolution. To qualify for the exemption, the rental unit must be owned by the fraternity or sorority or by an entity whose sole purpose is the maintenance and operation of the fraternity or sorority's rental units for the benefit of the members in order to provide housing to said members at cost.

N. A rental unit in a residential property containing only a Single Family Dwelling (as defined in Subtitle 23F.04 of the Zoning Ordinance) and one lawfully established and fully permitted Accessory Dwelling Unit where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence. This subsection (13.76.050N) shall only apply to properties containing a single Accessory Dwelling Unit, shall only apply to units compliant with all applicable requirements of Chapter 23C.24 ("Accessory Dwelling Units"), and shall only apply to tenancies created after November 7, 2018. However, the exemption of such rental units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.070, Security Deposits; Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter.

O. A dwelling or a unit alienable separate from the title to any other dwelling unit unless the tenancy commenced before January 1, 1996. However, the exemption of such units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. A property owner who owns only one residential unit in the City of Berkeley, and occupied that residential unit for 365 consecutive days as their principal residence immediately prior to renting the unit, and is absent from the unit for a period not to exceed 24 months, and such period is specified in the lease, shall also be exempt from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration, of this Chapter. The exemptions provided in this Section shall apply only as long as the pertinent provisions of California Civil Code Section 1954.50 et. seq. ("Costa-Hawkins") remain in effect and require such an exemption.

Section 3: Section 13.76.060 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**13.76.060 Rent Stabilization Board**

A. Composition. There shall be in the city of Berkeley an elected rent stabilization board; the board shall consist of nine commissioners. The board shall elect annually as chairperson one of its members to serve in that capacity.

B. Eligibility. Residents who are duly qualified electors of the city of Berkeley are eligible to serve as commissioners on the board.

C. Full disclosure of holdings. Candidates for the position of commissioner shall fulfill the requirements as set forth in the City Charter in Article III, Section 6 1/2.

In addition, when filing nomination papers, candidates shall submit a verified statement of their interests and dealings in real property, including but not limited to its ownership, sale or management and investment in and association with partnerships, corporations, joint ventures and syndicates engaged in its ownership, sale or management during the previous three years.

D. Election of commissioners. Commissioners shall be elected at the statewide general election held in November of even numbered years.

E. Terms of office. Commissioners' terms of office shall be as set forth in Article XVII of the Berkeley City Charter.

F. Powers and duties. The elected rent stabilization board shall have the power to determine, to arbitrate and to set rent levels, whether through general or individual adjustments, of any unit which has controlled rents under any Berkeley Ordinance, and to administer any Berkeley program which regulates rents and evictions. The board shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Set the rent ceilings for all rental units.
2. Require registration of all rental units under Section 13.76.080.
3. Publicize the manner in which the base rent ceiling is established under Section 13.76.100.
4. To make adjustments in the rent ceiling in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.
5. Set rents at fair and equitable levels in view of and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter.
6. To issue orders, rules and regulations, conduct hearings and charge fees as set below.
7. Make such studies, surveys and investigations, conduct such hearings, and obtain such information as is necessary to carry out its powers and duties.
8. Report annually to the city council of the city of Berkeley on the status of rental housing units covered by this chapter.
9. Request the City Council to remove rent controls under Section 13.76.060Q.

10. Administer oaths and affirmations and subpoena witnesses and relevant documents.
11. Establish rules and regulations for settling civil claims under Section 13.76.150.
12. Seek injunctive relief under Section 13.76.150.
13. Pursue civil remedies in courts of appropriate jurisdiction.
14. Intervene as an interested party in any litigation brought before a court of appropriate jurisdiction by a landlord or tenant with respect to rental units covered by this chapter.
15. Hold public hearings.
16. Charge and collect registration fees, including penalties for late payments.
17. Other powers necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter which are not inconsistent with the terms of this chapter.
18. Except as provided in Section 13.76.060N of this chapter, the board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses for its operation without the use of general fund monies of the city of Berkeley.

G. Rules and Regulations: The board shall issue and follow such rules and regulations, including those which are contained in this Chapter, as will further the purposes of this Chapter. The board shall publicize its rules and regulations prior to promulgation in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the city of Berkeley.

All rules and regulations and relevant documents explaining the decisions, orders, and policies of the board shall be kept in the board's office and shall be available to the public for inspection and copying.

The board shall publicize this Chapter so that all residents of Berkeley will have the opportunity to become informed about their legal rights and duties under this Chapter.



The board shall prepare a brochure which fully describes the legal rights and duties of landlords and tenants under this Chapter. The brochure shall be made available to the public.

H. Meetings: The board shall hold regularly scheduled meetings. Special meetings shall be called at the request of at least a majority of the commissioners of the board. The board shall hold its initial meeting no later than July 15, 1980.

I. Quorum: Five commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the board.

J. Voting: The affirmative vote of five commissioners of the board is required for a decision, including all motions, rules, regulations, and orders of the board.

K. Compensation: The rent stabilization board shall be a working board. Commissioners shall be paid compensation and benefits in an amount set by the board in order to compensate commissioners for their time and work performed as required by this chapter and the city charter.

L. Dockets: The board shall maintain and keep in its office all hearing dockets, which shall be available for public inspection.

M. Vacancies: If a vacancy shall occur on the board, a qualified person to fill such vacancy shall be selected in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article V of the City Charter.

N. Financing: The board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses by charging landlords annual registration fees in amounts deemed reasonable by the board. The registration fee for partially-exempt units shall reasonably approximate the cost of registration and counseling services for such units, and shall not include the cost of services from which such units are exempt. Such registration fees shall not be passed on to tenants in the form of rent increases except with the express prior approval of the board. The board is also empowered to request and receive funding, when and if necessary, from the city of Berkeley and/or any other available source for its reasonable and necessary expenses, including expenses incurred at the request of the City.

O. Staff: The board shall be a working board and shall employ such staff as may be necessary to perform its functions efficiently and as provided by Berkeley Ordinance.

P. Registration: The board shall require the registration of all rental units covered by this chapter as provided for in Section 13.76.080. The board may also require landlords to provide current information supplementing their registration statements.

~~Q.—Decontrol: If the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the city of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six month period, the city council is empowered, upon request by the board, at its discretion and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter, to exempt rental units covered by this chapter from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.100, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 of this chapter. In determining the vacancy rate for the city of Berkeley the board and the city council shall consider all available data and may conduct their own survey. If units are exempted pursuant to this Subsection Q coverage shall be reimposed if the city council finds that the average annual vacancy rate has thereafter fallen below five percent. Prior to any decision to exempt or renew coverage for rental units under this Subsection Q the board shall hold at least two public hearings.~~

~~R.~~ Q. Conflict of Interest: Commissioners shall be subject to the requirements of the California Political Reform Act and other applicable state and local conflict of interest codes. Commissioners shall not necessarily be disqualified from exercising any of their powers and duties on the grounds of a conflict of interest solely on the basis of their status as a landlord or tenant. However, a commissioner shall be disqualified from ruling on a petition for an individual adjustment of a rent ceiling under Section 13.76.120, where the commissioner is either the landlord of the property or a tenant residing in the property that is involved in the petition.

Section 4: Section 13.76.130 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows

**13.76.130 Good cause required for eviction**

A. No landlord shall be entitled to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter unless said landlord shows the existence of one of the following grounds:

1. The tenant has failed to pay rent to which the landlord is legally entitled pursuant to the lease or rental agreement and under the provisions of state or local law, unless the tenant has withheld rent pursuant to applicable law; and said failure has continued after service on the tenant of a written notice setting forth the amount of rent then due and requiring it to be paid, within a period, specified in the notice, of not less than three days. Rent that is lawfully withheld pursuant to emergency legislation that authorizes rent withholding during the effective period of a state of emergency applicable in Berkeley shall not constitute grounds for recovery of possession except as expressly provided in the applicable emergency legislation. Emergency legislation adopted during the emergency may prohibit recovery of possession for lawfully withheld rent even after the expiration of a state or local emergency.

2. The tenant has continued, after written notice to cease, to substantially violate any of the material terms of the rental agreement, except the obligation to surrender possession on proper notice as required by law, and provided that such terms are reasonable and legal and have been accepted in writing by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement; and provided further that, where such terms have been accepted by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement subsequent to the initial creation of the tenancy, the landlord shall have first notified the tenant in writing that he or she need not accept such terms or agree to their being made part of the rental agreement. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this chapter or in the rental agreement, a landlord is not entitled to recover possession of a rental unit under this subsection where a tenant permits his or her rental unit to be occupied by a subtenant, provided:

a. The landlord has unreasonably withheld consent to the subtenancy; and

- b. The tenant remains an actual occupant of the rental unit; and
- c. The number of tenants and subtenants actually occupying the rental unit does not exceed ~~the number of occupants originally allowed by the rental agreement or the board's regulations, whichever is greater~~ the maximum number of occupants legally allowed under Section 503.2 of the Uniform Housing Code as incorporated by California Health & Safety Code Section 17922, except where prohibited by law.
- d. Withholding of consent by the landlord shall be deemed to be unreasonable where:
  - (i) ~~The tenant's written request for consent was given at least two weeks prior to commencement of the subtenancy; tenant has made a written request to the landlord to either sublet the unit and/or add additional occupants, and the landlord has failed to respond in writing within fourteen (14) days of the tenant's request; or~~
  - (ii) The proposed new subtenant has, upon the landlord's written request, completed the landlord's standard form application or provided sufficient information to allow the landlord to conduct a standard background check, including references and credit, income and other reasonable background information, and the proposed new subtenant or additional occupant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and or
  - ~~(iii) The proposed new subtenant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and~~
  - ~~(iii iv)~~ (iii iv) The landlord has not articulated in writing a well-founded reason for refusing consent. A landlord's reasonable denial may not be based on the proposed occupant's lack of credit worthiness or income if that occupant will not be legally obligated to pay some or all of the rent to the landlord.

e. Where a landlord can establish that the proposed additional occupant presents a direct threat to the health, safety, or security of other residents of the property, the landlord shall have the right to deny the proposed tenant's occupancy.

f. Before initiating an action to recover possession based on the violation of a lawful obligation or covenant of tenancy regarding subletting or limits on the number of occupants in the rental unit, the landlord shall serve the tenant a written notice of the violation that provides the tenant with a minimum of fourteen (14) days to cure the violation. The notice must also inform the tenant(s) of their right to add subtenants and/or add additional occupants pursuant to this section.

3. The tenant has willfully caused or allowed substantial damage to the premises beyond normal wear and tear and has refused, after written notice, to pay the reasonable costs of repairing such damage and cease damaging said premises.
4. The tenant has refused to agree to a new rental agreement upon expiration of a prior rental agreement, but only where the new rental agreement contains provisions that are substantially identical to the prior rental agreement, and is not inconsistent with local, state and federal laws.
5. The tenant has continued, following written notice to cease, to be so disorderly as to destroy the peace and quiet of other tenants or occupants of the premises or the tenant is otherwise subject to eviction pursuant to subdivision 4 of Code of Civil Procedure Section 1161.
6. The tenant has, after written notice to cease, refused the landlord access to the unit as required by state or local law.
7. a. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to undertake substantial repairs which are necessary to bring the property into compliance with applicable codes and laws affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building or where necessary under an outstanding notice of code

violations affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building, and where such repairs cannot be completed while the tenant resides on the premises.

b. Where such repairs can be completed in a period of 60 or fewer days, and the tenant, within 30 days after the service of a notice of termination of his or her tenancy, agrees in writing to vacate the premises during the period required to complete the repairs at no charge to the landlord, other than abatement of the obligation to pay rent for the premises during the period required to complete the repairs, the landlord may not recover possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.) unless the tenant shall fail or refuse to vacate the premises in accordance with such agreement.

c. Where the landlord owns any other residential rental units in the City of Berkeley, and any such unit is vacant and available at the time of premises or the entry of a judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, the landlord shall, as a condition of obtaining possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), notify tenant in writing of the existence and address of each such vacant rental unit and offer tenant the right, at the tenant's option:

(i) To enter into a rental agreement (to be designated as a "temporary rental agreement") on any available rental unit which the tenant may choose, at a rent not to exceed the lesser of the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit or the lawful rent in effect, at the time of the notice of termination of tenancy, on the unit being vacated, said rental agreement to be for a term of the lesser of ninety days or until completion of repairs on the rental unit being vacated by tenant; or

(ii) To enter into a new rental agreement or lease for such available rental unit at a rent not to exceed the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit.

d. Where the landlord recovers possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon completion of the required work. In the event the landlord files an application for an individual rent adjustment within six months following the completion of the work, the tenant shall be a party to such proceeding the same as if he or she were still in possession, unless the landlord shall submit, with such application, a written waiver by the tenant of his or her right to re-occupy the premises pursuant to this subsection.

8. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit, in order to remove the rental unit from the market by demolition.

9. Owner Move-in Evictions.

a. The landlord seeks in good faith with honest intent and without ulterior motive to recover possession for his/her own use and occupancy as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months; or

b. For the use and occupancy as the principal residence by the landlord's spouse or by the landlord's child, or parent for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.

c. For the purposes of this subsection (13.76.130A.9.), the term landlord shall be defined as the owner of record, as of the time of giving of a notice terminating tenancy, and at all times thereafter to and including the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, holding at least a 50% interest in the property and shall not include a lessor, sublessor, or agent of the owner of record.

d. All notices terminating tenancy pursuant to subsection 13.76.130.A.9 shall include the following: the existence and

potential availability of relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g; the existence of tenant protections for families with minor children as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.k; the name and relationship of any qualified relative for purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9.b; and the landlord's ownership interest in any residential properties in the City of Berkeley where such interest, in any form whatsoever, is ten percent (10%) or greater. The landlord shall, within ten days of giving notice, file a copy of the notice terminating tenancy with the Rent Board.

e. The landlord may not recover possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.9.) if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley, was, at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the rental unit, already vacant and available, or if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley, thereafter becomes vacant at any time until the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord. In an action by or against the tenant, evidence that a comparable unit was vacant and available within ninety days prior to the date of a notice terminating the tenant's tenancy shall create a presumption that such unit was vacant and available at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the premises. "Presumption" means that the court must find the existence of the presumed fact unless and until the contrary is proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

f. The landlord shall offer any non-comparable unit owned by the landlord to the tenant if a non-comparable unit becomes available before the recovery of possession of the tenant's unit at a rate based on the rent the tenant is paying with an upward or downward adjustment based on the condition, size, and other amenities of the replacement unit. Disputes concerning the initial rent for the replacement unit shall be determined by the Rent Board.



g. Where a landlord recovers possession of a unit under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord is required to provide standard relocation assistance to tenant households where at least one occupant has resided in the unit for one year or more in the amount of \$15,000. The landlord is required to provide an additional \$5,000 relocation assistance to tenant households that qualify as low-income; or include disabled or elderly tenants; minor children; or tenancies which began prior to January 1, 1999. The relocation fees set forth above shall be increased in accordance with the rules set forth in subsection 13.76.130A.9.h below. The procedures for payment of this relocation assistance are set forth below in subsection 13.76.130A.9.p.(i) through (iv). The following definitions apply for any tenant households evicted for owner move-in under subsection 13.76.130A.9:

(i) "Low-income tenants" means persons and families whose income does not exceed the qualifying limits for lower income families as established and amended from time to time pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, or as otherwise defined in Health and Safety Code Section 50079.5.

(ii) A person is "disabled" if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more of a person's major life activities within the meaning of the California Fair Housing and Employment Act (Government Code § 12926).

(iii) "Elderly" is defined as sixty (60) years of age or older.

(iv) "Minor child" means a person who is under 18 years of age.

(v) "Tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999" is a tenancy where an "original occupant" (as defined by Berkeley Rent Board Regulation) still permanently resides in the rental unit.

h. Effective January 1 of each year beginning in 2018, the fees set forth above in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g., may be increased in an amount based on the Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers in

the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Region averaged for the 12-month period ending June 30, of each year, as determined and published by United States Department of Labor. Any increase shall be published by the Board on or before October 31st of each year.

i. It shall be evidence that the landlord has acted in bad faith if the landlord or the landlord's qualified relative for whom the tenant was evicted does not move into the rental unit within three months from the date of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or occupy said unit as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.

j. Once a landlord has successfully recovered possession of a rental unit pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a., then no other current or future landlords may recover possession of any other rental unit on the property pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a. It is the intention of this subsection that only one specific unit per property may be used for such occupancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a and that once a unit is used for such occupancy, all future occupancies under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a must be of that same unit.

k. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit has a custodial or family relationship with a minor child who is residing in the unit, the tenant with the custodial or family relationship has resided in the unit for 12 months or more, and the effective date of the notice of termination of tenancy falls during the school year. The term "school year" as used in this subsection means the first day of instruction for the Fall Semester through the first day of the month following the last day of instruction for the Spring Semester, as posted on the Berkeley Unified School District website for each year.

(i) For purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9.k, the term "custodial relationship" means that the person is a legal guardian of the child, or has a caregiver's authorization affidavit for the child as defined

by Section 6550 of the California Family Code, or that the person has provided full-time custodial care of the child pursuant to an agreement with the child's legal guardian or court-recognized caregiver and has been providing that care for at least one year or half of the child's lifetime, whichever is less. The term "family relationship" means that the person is the biological or adoptive parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt or uncle of the child, or the spouse or domestic partner of such relations.

I. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit:

(i) Is 60 years of age or older and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(ii) Is disabled and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(iii) Has resided on the property for five years or more and the landlord has a ten percent (10%) or greater ownership interest, in any form whatsoever, in five or more residential rental units in the City of Berkeley.

m. A tenant who claims to be a member of one of the classes protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I must submit a statement, with supporting evidence, to the landlord. A tenant's failure to submit a statement at any point prior to the trial date of an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit shall be deemed an admission that the tenant is not protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I. A landlord may challenge a tenant's claim of protected status by raising it as an issue at trial in an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit.

n. The provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.9.I shall not apply to the following situations:

- (i) Where a person is the owner of three or fewer residential units in the City of Berkeley and has no greater than a nine percent (9%) ownership interest in any other residential unit in the City of Berkeley; or
  - (ii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I and the landlord's qualified relative who is seeking possession of a unit subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.b is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii) above; or
  - (iii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I, the landlord has owned the unit for which possession is being sought subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a for five years or more and is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii).
- o. Where a landlord recovers possession under Subsection 13.76.130A.9, the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon its next vacancy.
- p. When a landlord is required to provide a relocation assistance payment subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, the payment shall be divided among the tenants occupying the rental unit at the time of service of the notice to terminate tenancy.
- (i) Within ten days of service of a notice terminating tenancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord shall deposit the standard relocation assistance (for households where an occupant has resided one year or more) with the City or its designated agent to be held in escrow. Within ten days after the funds are deposited

into escrow, the City shall release the standard relocation assistance to the tenant household, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(ii) In order to claim entitlement to additional relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, a tenant must notify the landlord and the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she is claiming low-income, disabled, elderly, tenant with minor child status, or a claim that the tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999 (hereinafter "entitlement to additional relocation assistance") per subsection 13.76.130A.9.g within 30 days of filing of notice of termination of tenancy with the Rent Stabilization Program. The landlord shall deposit the additional relocation payment with the Rent Stabilization Program or its designated agent to be held in escrow for any tenant household who claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance within ten days after such notice claiming entitlement to additional relocation assistance is mailed. Within ten days after the funds are deposited into escrow, the Rent Stabilization Program shall authorize release of the relocation assistance to the tenant household that claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(iii) When a tenant household's eligibility to receive standard or additional relocation assistance as described in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g is disputed, either party may file a Rent Board petition requesting a determination of eligibility or file a claim in a court of competent jurisdiction. The Rent Stabilization Program shall release disputed relocation assistance funds to either the tenant or the landlord upon receipt of either a written agreement by both the landlord and the affected tenant, an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or an order of a City or Rent Board hearing

examiner issued pursuant to a petition process conducted in accordance with applicable Rent Board Regulations.

(iv) The landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy prior to any release of relocation payment to the tenants by serving written notice stating such rescission on the tenants. In such instance, the relocation payment shall be released to the landlord. Subsequent to the release of any relocation payment to the tenants, the landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy only upon the written agreement of the tenants to remain in possession of the rental unit. If the tenants remain in possession of the rental units after service of a landlord's written notice of rescission of the eviction, the tenants shall provide an accounting to the landlord of the amount of the relocation payment expended for moving costs, return to the landlord that portion of the relocation payment not expended for moving costs, and assign to the landlord all rights to recover the amount of relocation payment paid to third parties. If a rescission occurs under this subsection, the tenant(s) shall continue the tenancy on the same terms as before the notice was served.

(v) Where a landlord has served a notice of termination of tenancy on a tenant prior to the date that this amendment takes effect and the notice of termination of tenancy has not expired, the landlord shall deposit the full relocation payment with the City or its designated agent to be held in escrow for the tenants if the tenants have not vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment, and the landlord shall pay the full relocation payment to the tenants if the tenants have vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment. Said deposit in escrow or payment to the tenants shall be made within ten days of the effective date of this amendment.

(vi) Failure of the landlord to make any payment specified herein shall be a defense to any action to recover possession of a rental unit based upon the landlord's termination of tenancy notice pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9). In addition, if the tenants of a rental unit have vacated the unit as a result of a notice of termination of tenancy pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130.A.9), and the landlord fails to make any payment specified herein, the landlord shall be liable to the tenants for three times the amount of the payment as well as reasonable attorney fees.

q. A tenant who prevails in an action brought under this subsection (13.76.130A.9), in addition to any damages and/or costs awarded by the court, shall be entitled to recover all reasonable attorney's fees incurred in bringing or defending the action.

r. At least twice annually, Rent Board staff shall report to the Rent Board regarding the occupancy status of units possession of which has been recovered pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9) within the prior 36 months.

s. If any provision or clause of this subsection (13.76.130A.9) or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional or to be otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or clauses, and to this end the provisions and applications of this subsection are severable.

10. A landlord or lessor seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence, where the landlord or lessor has previously occupied the rental unit as his/her principal residence and has the right to recover possession of the unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence under an existing rental agreement with the current tenants.

11. The tenant fails to vacate a rental unit occupied under the terms of a temporary rental agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.7.c., following expiration of the term of said temporary rental agreement, and following written notice of the availability of tenant's previous rental unit for re-occupancy by tenant (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the completion of repairs on the old rental unit), or of written notice to quit (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the expiration of a period of 90 days).

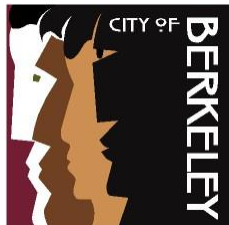
B. A landlord's failure to specify good cause as listed above in subsections 1. through 11. of Section 13.76.130A. in the notice of termination or the notice to quit and in the complaint for possession shall be a defense to any action for possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter.

C. In any action to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter, except an action to recover possession under subsection 13.76.130A.7., 13.76.130.A.8, or 13.76.130.A.11., a landlord shall allege, as to each rental unit on the property, substantial compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with the implied warranty of habitability and compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with Sections 13.76.100 (Rent Ceiling) and 13.76.080 (Rent Registration) of this chapter.

D. The landlord shall file with the board a copy of any notice of termination, notice to quit, and summons and complaint, within ten days after the tenant has been served with such notice or summons and complaint.

Section 5. Severability. If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The People of the City of Berkeley hereby declare that they would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional.





Office of the City Manager

## **REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 1**

**Meeting Date:** July 12, 2022

**Item Number:** 20

**Item Description:** Placing a Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot Amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance (B.M.C. 13.76)

**Submitted by:** Office of the City Attorney and Matt Brown, General Counsel  
Rent Board

Amendments to resolution placing measure on the November 8, 2022 ballot: changes to ballot question language and non-substantive changes to title and other sections of resolution.

Amendments to ballot measure language: non-substantive changes to title and other sections.

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

~~SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE A MEASURE TO AMENDING-  
 BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.76 OF THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL  
 CODE TO ALLOW RENT CONTROL TO APPLY, TO THE EXTENT THAT STATE OR  
 LOCAL LAW PERMITS, FOR THE REGULATION OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS  
 WHERE STATE AND LOCAL LAW DO NOT PROHIBIT RENT CONTROL, AND  
 SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO UNITS, BUILT AS THE RESULT  
 OF DEMOLITION OF PREVIOUSLY RENT-CONTROLLED UNITS CREATED  
 PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 330 (HOUSING CRISIS ACT OF 2019); ALLOW  
 INCREASED OCCUPANCY OF RENTAL UNITS WITHOUT THREAT OF EVICTION;  
 ELIMINATE PROVISION ALLOWING CITY COUNCIL TO EXEMPT UNITS FROM  
 RENT CONTROL IF CITY'S VACANCY RATE EXCEEDS 5% OVER A SIX-MONTH  
 PERIOD; AND INCREASE EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN LANDLORD-  
 OCCUPIED PROPERTIES. TO ADD EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR RENTAL UNITS  
 IN A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CONSISTING OF TWO UNITS WHERE ONE OF  
 THE UNITS IS OCCUPIED BY A LANDLORD AS THEIR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF  
 RESIDENCE AND WHERE ONE OF THE TWO UNITS WAS OWNER OCCUPIED AS  
 OF DECEMBER 31, 1979 AND EVICTION PROTECTIONS TO TENANTS IN RENTAL  
 UNITS CONTAINING A SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING AND ONE LAWFULLY  
 ESTABLISHED ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT WHERE THE LANDLORD OCCUPIES  
 A UNIT IN THE SAME PROPERTY; TO PROHIBIT EVICTIONS BASED ON THE  
 ADDITION OF OCCUPANTS IF THE LANDLORD HAS UNREASONABLY REFUSED  
 THE TENANT'S REQUEST; AND TO ELIMINATE SECTION 13.76.060  
 (DECONTROL).~~

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance are to regulate residential rent increases in the City of Berkeley and to protect tenants from unwarranted rent increases and arbitrary, discriminatory, or retaliatory evictions, in order to help maintain the diversity of the Berkeley community and to ensure compliance with legal obligations relating to the rental of housing. This legislation is designed to address the City of Berkeley's housing crisis, preserve the public peace, health and safety, and advance the housing policies of the city with regard to low and fixed income persons, minorities, students, handicapped, and the aged; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater protections to tenants in newly constructed units; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater eviction protections for tenants in units that previously did not have such protections; and

WHEREAS, eviction protections will be increased for tenant households that add additional occupants if a landlord has unreasonably refused a tenant's written request; and

WHEREAS, Section 13.76.060 (Decontrol) is to be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, these enumerated amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance will prevent displacement of tenants by extending additional protections and services to tenants who do not enjoy such protections under existing law; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council has elected to submit to the voters at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election, a measure amending Chapter 13.76 of the Berkeley Municipal Code to allow rent control to apply to new construction built as the result of demolition of previously rent-controlled units, allow increased occupancy of rental units, eliminate a provision allowing the City Council to exempt units from rent control if the citywide vacancy rate exceeds 5%, and increase eviction protections for certain landlord-occupied properties; to amend Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 13.76 to allow for the regulation of newly constructed units if permissible under state or local law; to provide eviction protections under the Ordinance for tenants in properties consisting of two units where one unit is a landlord's principal place of residence and one unit was a landlord's principal place of residence as of December 31, 1979 and eviction protections to tenants residing on a property containing a single family dwelling and a lawfully established Accessory Dwelling Unit where the landlord occupies a unit at the property; to provide eviction protections for tenants that add additional occupants to their household after the landlord has unreasonably refused a written request to do so; and to eliminate Section 13.76.060 (Decontrol) from the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10002 and 10403 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is requested to consolidate the City of Berkeley General Municipal Election with the Statewide General Election to be held November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to submit this measure to be placed upon the ballot at said consolidated election.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above enumerated measure requires a majority vote threshold for passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285 (b), the City Council hereby adopts the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285 (a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Ordinance measure shall appear and be printed upon the ballots to be used at said election as follows:

CITY OF BERKELEY ORDINANCE	
<u>Shall the measure amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to allow rent control to apply to new construction built as a result of demolition of rent-controlled units, where not prohibited by state law; allow a greater number of occupants per rental unit; eliminate a provision allowing the City Council to exempt units from rent control if the citywide vacancy rate exceeds 5% over six months; and limit evictions for certain landlord-occupied properties be adopted?</u>	YES
<del>Shall the measure amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to: allow, to the extent that state or local permits, for the regulation of newly-constructed units;</del>	NO

<del>to provide eviction protections to tenants in certain two-unit properties where such eviction protections previously did not apply; to provide eviction protections to tenants who add additional occupants after the landlord has unreasonably denied such a request; and to eliminate Section 13.76.060 be adopted?</del>	
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the text of the measure be shown as Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Exhibits

A: Text of Measure

Exhibit A

ORDINANCE NO. ~~##,###~~-N.S.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY AMENDING CHAPTER 13.76 OF THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW RENT CONTROL TO APPLY TO NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS WHERE STATE AND LOCAL LAW DO NOT PROHIBIT RENT CONTROL AND SPECIFICALLY TO UNITS BUILT AS THE RESULT OF DEMOLITION OF PREVIOUSLY RENT-CONTROLLED UNITS; ALLOW INCREASED OCCUPANCY OF RENTAL UNITS; ELIMINATE PROVISION ALLOWING CITY COUNCIL TO EXEMPT UNITS FROM RENT CONTROL IF CITY'S VACANCY RATE EXCEEDS 5% OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD; AND INCREASE EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN LANDLORD-OCCUPIED PROPERTIES.

~~AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY AMENDING BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.76 TO ALLOW, TO THE EXTENT THAT STATE OR LOCAL LAW PERMITS, FOR THE REGULATION OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, UNITS CREATED PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 330 (HOUSING CRISIS ACT OF 2019); TO ADD EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR RENTAL UNITS IN A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CONSISTING OF TWO UNITS WHERE ONE OF THE UNITS IS OCCUPIED BY A LANDLORD AS THEIR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND WHERE ONE OF THE TWO UNITS WAS OWNER OCCUPIED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1979 AND EVICTION PROTECTIONS TO TENANTS IN RENTAL UNITS CONTAINING A SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING AND ONE LAWFULLY ESTABLISHED ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT WHERE THE LANDLORD OCCUPIES A UNIT IN THE SAME PROPERTY; TO PROHIBIT EVICTIONS BASED ON THE ADDITION OF OCCUPANTS IF THE LANDLORD HAS UNREASONABLY REFUSED THE TENANT'S REQUEST; AND TO ELIMINATE SECTION 13.76.060 (DECONTROL)~~

BE IT ORDAINED by ~~t~~The People of the City of Berkeley ~~do ordain~~ as follows:

Section 1. Section 13.76.040 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**13.76.040 Definitions.**

- A. "Board" refers to the elected Rent Stabilization Board established by this chapter and Article XVII of the Charter of the City of Berkeley.
- B. "Commissioners" means the members of the board who are denominated commissioners.
- C. "Housing services" include but are not limited to repairs, maintenance, painting, providing light, hot and cold water, elevator service, window shades and screens, storage, kitchen, bath and laundry facilities and privileges, janitor services, refuse removal, furnishing, telephone, parking and any other benefit, privilege or facility connected with the use or occupancy of any rental unit. Services to a rental unit shall include a proportionate part of services provided to common facilities of the building in which the rental unit is contained.
- D. "Landlord" means an owner of record, lessor, sublessor or any other person or entity entitled to receive rent for the use or occupancy of any rental unit, or an agent, representative or successor of any of the foregoing.
- E. "Rent" means the consideration, including any deposit, bonus, benefit or gratuity demanded or received for or in connection with the use or occupancy of rental units and housing services. Such consideration shall include, but not be limited to, monies and fair market value of goods or services rendered to or for the benefit of the landlord under the rental agreement.
- F. "Rental agreement" means an agreement, oral, written or implied, between a landlord and a tenant for use or occupancy of a rental unit and for housing services.
- G. "Rental unit" means any unit in any real property, including the land appurtenant thereto, rented or available for rent for residential use or occupancy (including units covered by the Berkeley Live/Work Ordinance No. 5217-NS), located in the City of Berkeley, together with all housing services connected with use or occupancy of such property such as common areas and recreational facilities held out for use by the tenant.
- H. "Property" means a parcel of real property which is assessed and taxed as an undivided whole.

I. "Tenant" means any renter, tenant, subtenant, lessee, or sublessee of a rental unit, or successor to a renter's interest, or any group of tenants, subtenants, lessees, or sublessees of any rental unit, or any other person entitled to the use or occupancy of such rental unit.

J. "Skilled nursing facility" means a health facility or a distinct part of a hospital which provides the following basic services: skilled nursing care and supportive care to patients whose primary need is for availability of skilled nursing care on an extended basis. It provides 24-hour inpatient care and, as a minimum, includes medical, nursing, dietary, pharmaceutical services and an activity program. The facility shall have effective arrangements, confirmed in writing, through which services required by the patients, but not regularly provided within the facility, can be obtained promptly when needed.

K. "Health facility" means any facility, place or building which is organized, maintained and operated for the diagnosis, care and treatment of human illness, physical or mental, including convalescence and rehabilitation and including care during and after pregnancy, or for any one or more of these purposes, for one or more persons, to which such persons are admitted for a 24-hour stay or longer.

L. "Recognized tenant organization" means any group of tenants, residing in rental units in the same building or in different buildings operated by the same management company, agent or landlord, which requests to be so designated.

M. "Rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent which a landlord may charge on any rental unit covered by this chapter.

N. "Base rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent established under Section 13.76.100 of this chapter.

O. "Fees" means for the purpose of this chapter, a charge fixed by law for services of public officers or for use of a privilege under control of government.

P. "Nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education" means a post secondary educational institution whose legal status under the California Education Code is verified by an annual validation receipt from the California State Department of



Education, and which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or the Association of Theological Schools and which is exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and under Section 23701(d) of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and which, if otherwise required by law to do so, has obtained a valid unrevoked letter or ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or from the Franchise Tax Board which states that the organization so qualifies for exemption from taxation.

Q. "Newly Constructed" means a rental unit created after June 30, 1980. For purposes of this definition, the date a unit was created is based upon the date of the first certificate of occupancy issued for the subject unit. However, in the event of the repeal or amendment of Civil Code Section 1954.52, such that "certificate of occupancy" is no longer the operative standard set forth under state law, the date a unit was created shall be determined by the final inspection approval by the City.

R. Notwithstanding any other provision in this ordinance, and to the extent that state or local law does not prohibit a local jurisdiction from regulating the rent on a residential rental unit, such units shall not be exempt as "newly constructed units" and, unless otherwise exempt, shall be covered by all provisions of this chapter. This includes, but is not limited to, any residential rental units created as a result of demolition or replacement where such demolition or replacement is affected via the creation of a "housing development project" as defined in the Housing Crisis Act of 2019 (Senate Bill 330).

Section 2: Section 13.76.050 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

### **13.76.050 Applicability**

This chapter shall apply to all real property that is being rented or is available for rent for residential use in whole or in part, except for the following:

A. Rental units which are owned by any government agency. However, the exemption of units owned by the Berkeley Housing Authority from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration;

Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter.

B. Rental units which are rented primarily to transient guests for use or occupancy less than fourteen consecutive days in establishments such as hotels, motels, inns, tourist homes, and rooming and boarding houses. However, the payment of rent every fourteen days or less shall not by itself exempt any unit from coverage by this chapter.

C. Rental units in nonprofit cooperatives owned and controlled by a majority of the residents.

D. Rental units leased to tenants assisted under the Section 8 program (42 U.S.C. Section 1437f) or the Shelter Plus Care Program (42 U.S.C. 11403 et. seq.) or similar federally funded rent subsidy program. Except as may be preempted by state or federal law, the exemption of such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. However, the exemption from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 shall apply only for so long as the rent demanded does not exceed the authorized Payment Standard, which, for purposes of this subsection, is the maximum monthly rental assistance potentially available to an assisted household before deducting the household share of income paid for rent and utilities as established by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency. For units where the rent demanded exceeds the Payment Standard, the Payment Standard or an initial rent above the Payment Standard if approved by the Berkeley Housing Authority, as reported to the board by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency, shall become the unit's base rent ceiling and the reference point from which the rent ceiling shall be adjusted in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.

E. Rental units in any hospital, skilled nursing facility, health facility, asylum, or non-profit home for the aged.

F. Rental units in a residential property which is divided into a maximum of four units where one of such units is occupied by the landlord as his/her principal residence. Any exemption of rental units established under this subsection (13.76.050 F.) shall be limited to rental units that would have been exempt under the provisions of this chapter had this chapter been in effect on December 31, 1979. After July 1, 1982, this exemption shall no longer apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into three or four units. It shall continue to apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into two units, and which meet all the other requirements of this subsection (13.76.050F). However, the exemption of such rental units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. Rental units which become non-exempt under this provision shall have the provisions of Subsections 13.76.080I and 13.76.100C. applied to them.

G. A rental unit in a residential property where the landlord shares kitchen or bath facilities with the tenant(s) of such rental unit and where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence.

H. For the purposes of Subsections 13.76.050 F. and G., the term landlord shall be defined only as the owner of record holding at least 50% interest in the property.

I. Newly constructed rental units, as defined in Section 13.76.040Q. However, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. To the extent that state law permits, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to the first 20 years after completion of construction.

J. A rental unit which is rented by a nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education to a tenant or tenants who are student(s), faculty, or staff of the institution or of a member school of the Graduate Theological Union, provided, however, that the institution owned the unit as of January 1, 1988.

K. A rental unit in a residential property owned by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is rented to a low income tenant and subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency that controls the unit's rent levels. However, the exemption for such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings of this chapter and shall apply only for so long as the regulatory agreement is in effect. This exemption shall not apply to rental units at the property that are not subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency or that are rented by a tenant who occupied the unit prior to the property's acquisition by the tax-exempt organization.

L. Rental units in a facility owned or leased by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that has the primary purpose of operating a treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program for qualified clients, where such rental units are provided incident to the client's participation in the primary program and where the client has been informed in writing of the temporary or transitional nature of the housing at the inception of his or her participation in the program. However, except as may be preempted by the Transitional Housing Participant Misconduct Act (California Health and Safety Code Sections 50580 et. seq.) or other state or federal law, such rental units shall not be exempted from the terms of Section 13.76.130, Good Cause Required for Eviction. For purposes of Section 13.76.130.A.2, the client's continued eligibility for participation in the treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program shall be deemed a material term of the client's rental agreement with the program's operator.

M. A rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority recognized by the University of California Berkeley, or a rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority identified by Rent Board Resolution. To qualify for the exemption, the rental unit must be owned by the fraternity or sorority or by an entity whose sole purpose is the maintenance and operation of the fraternity or sorority's rental units for the benefit of the members in order to provide housing to said members at cost.

N. A rental unit in a residential property containing only a Single Family Dwelling (as defined in Subtitle 23F.04 of the Zoning Ordinance) and one lawfully established and fully permitted Accessory Dwelling Unit where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence. This subsection (13.76.050N) shall only apply to properties containing a single Accessory Dwelling Unit, shall only apply to units compliant with all applicable requirements of Chapter 23C.24 ("Accessory Dwelling Units"), and shall only apply to tenancies created after November 7, 2018. However, the exemption of such rental units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter.

O. A dwelling or a unit alienable separate from the title to any other dwelling unit unless the tenancy commenced before January 1, 1996. However, the exemption of such units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. A property owner who owns only one residential unit in the City of Berkeley, and occupied that residential unit for 365 consecutive days as their principal residence immediately prior to renting the unit, and is absent from the unit for a period not to exceed 24 months, and such period is specified in the lease, shall also be exempt from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration, of this Chapter. The exemptions provided in this Section shall apply only as long as the pertinent provisions of California Civil Code Section 1954.50 et. seq. ("Costa-Hawkins") remain in effect and require such an exemption.

Section 3: Section 13.76.060 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

### **13.76.060 Rent Stabilization Board**

A. Composition. There shall be in the city of Berkeley an elected rent stabilization board; the board shall consist of nine commissioners. The board shall elect annually as chairperson one of its members to serve in that capacity.

B. Eligibility. Residents who are duly qualified electors of the city of Berkeley are eligible to serve as commissioners on the board.

C. Full disclosure of holdings. Candidates for the position of commissioner shall fulfill the requirements as set forth in the City Charter in Article III, Section 6 1/2.

In addition, when filing nomination papers, candidates shall submit a verified statement of their interests and dealings in real property, including but not limited to its ownership, sale or management and investment in and association with partnerships, corporations, joint ventures and syndicates engaged in its ownership, sale or management during the previous three years.

D. Election of commissioners. Commissioners shall be elected at the statewide general election held in November of even numbered years.

E. Terms of office. Commissioners' terms of office shall be as set forth in Article XVII of the Berkeley City Charter.

F. Powers and duties. The elected rent stabilization board shall have the power to determine, to arbitrate and to set rent levels, whether through general or individual adjustments, of any unit which has controlled rents under any Berkeley Ordinance, and to administer any Berkeley program which regulates rents and evictions. The board shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Set the rent ceilings for all rental units.
2. Require registration of all rental units under Section 13.76.080.
3. Publicize the manner in which the base rent ceiling is established under Section 13.76.100.
4. To make adjustments in the rent ceiling in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.

5. Set rents at fair and equitable levels in view of and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter.
6. To issue orders, rules and regulations, conduct hearings and charge fees as set below.
7. Make such studies, surveys and investigations, conduct such hearings, and obtain such information as is necessary to carry out its powers and duties.
8. Report annually to the city council of the city of Berkeley on the status of rental housing units covered by this chapter.
9. Request the City Council to remove rent controls under Section 13.76.060Q.
10. Administer oaths and affirmations and subpoena witnesses and relevant documents.
11. Establish rules and regulations for settling civil claims under Section 13.76.150.
12. Seek injunctive relief under Section 13.76.150.
13. Pursue civil remedies in courts of appropriate jurisdiction.
14. Intervene as an interested party in any litigation brought before a court of appropriate jurisdiction by a landlord or tenant with respect to rental units covered by this chapter.
15. Hold public hearings.
16. Charge and collect registration fees, including penalties for late payments.
17. Other powers necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter which are not inconsistent with the terms of this chapter.

18. Except as provided in Section 13.76.060N of this chapter, the board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses for its operation without the use of general fund monies of the city of Berkeley.

G. Rules and Regulations: The board shall issue and follow such rules and regulations, including those which are contained in this Chapter, as will further the purposes of this Chapter. The board shall publicize its rules and regulations prior to promulgation in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the city of Berkeley.

All rules and regulations and relevant documents explaining the decisions, orders, and policies of the board shall be kept in the board's office and shall be available to the public for inspection and copying.

The board shall publicize this Chapter so that all residents of Berkeley will have the opportunity to become informed about their legal rights and duties under this Chapter. The board shall prepare a brochure which fully describes the legal rights and duties of landlords and tenants under this Chapter. The brochure shall be made available to the public.

H. Meetings: The board shall hold regularly scheduled meetings. Special meetings shall be called at the request of at least a majority of the commissioners of the board. The board shall hold its initial meeting no later than July 15, 1980.

I. Quorum: Five commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the board.

J. Voting: The affirmative vote of five commissioners of the board is required for a decision, including all motions, rules, regulations, and orders of the board.

K. Compensation: The rent stabilization board shall be a working board. Commissioners shall be paid compensation and benefits in an amount set by the board in order to compensate commissioners for their time and work performed as required by this chapter and the city charter.

L. Dockets: The board shall maintain and keep in its office all hearing dockets, which shall be available for public inspection.



M. Vacancies: If a vacancy shall occur on the board, a qualified person to fill such vacancy shall be selected in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article V of the City Charter.

N. Financing: The board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses by charging landlords annual registration fees in amounts deemed reasonable by the board. The registration fee for partially-exempt units shall reasonably approximate the cost of registration and counseling services for such units, and shall not include the cost of services from which such units are exempt. Such registration fees shall not be passed on to tenants in the form of rent increases except with the express prior approval of the board. The board is also empowered to request and receive funding, when and if necessary, from the city of Berkeley and/or any other available source for its reasonable and necessary expenses, including expenses incurred at the request of the City.

O. Staff: The board shall be a working board and shall employ such staff as may be necessary to perform its functions efficiently and as provided by Berkeley Ordinance.

P. Registration: The board shall require the registration of all rental units covered by this chapter as provided for in Section 13.76.080. The board may also require landlords to provide current information supplementing their registration statements.

~~Q.—Decontrol: If the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the city of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six month period, the city council is empowered, upon request by the board, at its discretion and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter, to exempt rental units covered by this chapter from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.100, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 of this chapter. In determining the vacancy rate for the city of Berkeley the board and the city council shall consider all available data and may conduct their own survey. If units are exempted pursuant to this Subsection Q coverage shall be reimposed if the city council finds that the average annual vacancy rate has thereafter fallen below five percent. Prior to any decision to exempt or renew coverage for rental units under this Subsection Q the board shall hold at least two public hearings.~~

~~R. Q.~~ Conflict of Interest: Commissioners shall be subject to the requirements of the California Political Reform Act and other applicable state and local conflict of interest codes. Commissioners shall not necessarily be disqualified from exercising any of their powers and duties on the grounds of a conflict of interest solely on the basis of their status as a landlord or tenant. However, a commissioner shall be disqualified from ruling on a petition for an individual adjustment of a rent ceiling under Section 13.76.120, where the commissioner is either the landlord of the property or a tenant residing in the property that is involved in the petition.

Section 4: Section 13.76.130 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows

**13.76.130 Good cause required for eviction**

A. No landlord shall be entitled to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter unless said landlord shows the existence of one of the following grounds:

1. The tenant has failed to pay rent to which the landlord is legally entitled pursuant to the lease or rental agreement and under the provisions of state or local law, unless the tenant has withheld rent pursuant to applicable law; and said failure has continued after service on the tenant of a written notice setting forth the amount of rent then due and requiring it to be paid, within a period, specified in the notice, of not less than three days. Rent that is lawfully withheld pursuant to emergency legislation that authorizes rent withholding during the effective period of a state of emergency applicable in Berkeley shall not constitute grounds for recovery of possession except as expressly provided in the applicable emergency legislation. Emergency legislation adopted during the emergency may prohibit recovery of possession for lawfully withheld rent even after the expiration of a state or local emergency.

2. The tenant has continued, after written notice to cease, to substantially violate any of the material terms of the rental agreement, except the obligation to surrender possession on proper notice as required by law, and provided that such terms are reasonable and legal and have been accepted in writing by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement; and provided further that, where such terms have been accepted by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement subsequent to the initial creation of the tenancy, the landlord shall have first notified the tenant in writing that he or she need not accept such terms or agree to their being made part of the rental agreement. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this chapter or in the rental agreement, a landlord is not entitled to recover possession of a rental unit under this subsection where a tenant permits his or her rental unit to be occupied by a subtenant, provided:

- a. The landlord has unreasonably withheld consent to the subtenancy; and
- b. The tenant remains an actual occupant of the rental unit; and
- c. The number of tenants and subtenants actually occupying the rental unit does not exceed ~~the number of occupants originally allowed by the rental agreement or the board's regulations, whichever is greater~~ the maximum number of occupants legally allowed under Section 503.2.503(b)(2) of the Uniform Housing Code as incorporated by California Health & Safety Code Section 17922, except where prohibited by law.
- d. Withholding of consent by the landlord shall be deemed to be unreasonable where:
  - (i) ~~The tenant's written request for consent was given at least two weeks prior to commencement of the subtenancy; tenant has made a written request to the landlord to either sublet the unit and/or add additional occupants, and the landlord has failed to respond in writing within fourteen (14) days of the tenant's request; or~~
  - (ii) The proposed new subtenant has, upon the landlord's written request, completed the landlord's standard form application or

provided sufficient information to allow the landlord to conduct a standard background check, including references and credit, income and other reasonable background information, and the proposed new subtenant or additional occupant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and or

~~-(iii)—The proposed new subtenant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and~~

~~(iii iv)~~ The landlord has not articulated in writing a well-founded reason for refusing consent. A landlord's reasonable denial may not be based on the proposed occupant's lack of credit worthiness or income if that occupant will not be legally obligated to pay some or all of the rent to the landlord.

e. Where a landlord can establish that the proposed additional occupant presents a direct threat to the health, safety, or security of other residents of the property, the landlord shall have the right to deny the proposed tenant's occupancy.

f. Before initiating an action to recover possession based on the violation of a lawful obligation or covenant of tenancy regarding subletting or limits on the number of occupants in the rental unit, the landlord shall serve the tenant a written notice of the violation that provides the tenant with a minimum of fourteen (14) days to cure the violation. The notice must also inform the tenant(s) of their right to add subtenants and/or add additional occupants pursuant to this section.

3. The tenant has willfully caused or allowed substantial damage to the premises beyond normal wear and tear and has refused, after written notice, to pay the reasonable costs of repairing such damage and cease damaging said premises.

4. The tenant has refused to agree to a new rental agreement upon expiration of a prior rental agreement, but only where the new rental agreement contains provisions that are substantially identical to the prior rental agreement, and is not inconsistent with local, state and federal laws.
5. The tenant has continued, following written notice to cease, to be so disorderly as to destroy the peace and quiet of other tenants or occupants of the premises or the tenant is otherwise subject to eviction pursuant to subdivision 4 of Code of Civil Procedure Section 1161.
6. The tenant has, after written notice to cease, refused the landlord access to the unit as required by state or local law.
7.
  - a. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to undertake substantial repairs which are necessary to bring the property into compliance with applicable codes and laws affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building or where necessary under an outstanding notice of code violations affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building, and where such repairs cannot be completed while the tenant resides on the premises.
  - b. Where such repairs can be completed in a period of 60 or fewer days, and the tenant, within 30 days after the service of a notice of termination of his or her tenancy, agrees in writing to vacate the premises during the period required to complete the repairs at no charge to the landlord, other than abatement of the obligation to pay rent for the premises during the period required to complete the repairs, the landlord may not recover possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.) unless the tenant shall fail or refuse to vacate the premises in accordance with such agreement.
  - c. Where the landlord owns any other residential rental units in the City of Berkeley, and any such unit is vacant and available at the time of premises or the entry of a judgment by a court of competent

jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, the landlord shall, as a condition of obtaining possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), notify tenant in writing of the existence and address of each such vacant rental unit and offer tenant the right, at the tenant's option:

(i) To enter into a rental agreement (to be designated as a "temporary rental agreement") on any available rental unit which the tenant may choose, at a rent not to exceed the lesser of the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit or the lawful rent in effect, at the time of the notice of termination of tenancy, on the unit being vacated, said rental agreement to be for a term of the lesser of ninety days or until completion of repairs on the rental unit being vacated by tenant; or

(ii) To enter into a new rental agreement or lease for such available rental unit at a rent not to exceed the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit.

d. Where the landlord recovers possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon completion of the required work. In the event the landlord files an application for an individual rent adjustment within six months following the completion of the work, the tenant shall be a party to such proceeding the same as if he or she were still in possession, unless the landlord shall submit, with such application, a written waiver by the tenant of his or her right to re-occupy the premises pursuant to this subsection.

8. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit, in order to remove the rental unit from the market by demolition.

9. Owner Move-in Evictions.

- a. The landlord seeks in good faith with honest intent and without ulterior motive to recover possession for his/her own use and occupancy as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months; or
- b. For the use and occupancy as the principal residence by the landlord's spouse or by the landlord's child, or parent for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.
- c. For the purposes of this subsection (13.76.130A.9.), the term landlord shall be defined as the owner of record, as of the time of giving of a notice terminating tenancy, and at all times thereafter to and including the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, holding at least a 50% interest in the property and shall not include a lessor, sublessor, or agent of the owner of record.
- d. All notices terminating tenancy pursuant to subsection 13.76.130.A.9 shall include the following: the existence and potential availability of relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g; the existence of tenant protections for families with minor children as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.k; the name and relationship of any qualified relative for purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9b; and the landlord's ownership interest in any residential properties in the City of Berkeley where such interest, in any form whatsoever, is ten percent (10%) or greater. The landlord shall, within ten days of giving notice, file a copy of the notice terminating tenancy with the Rent Board.
- e. The landlord may not recover possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.9.) if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley, was, at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the rental unit, already vacant and available, or if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley,

thereafter becomes vacant at any time until the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord. In an action by or against the tenant, evidence that a comparable unit was vacant and available within ninety days prior to the date of a notice terminating the tenant's tenancy shall create a presumption that such unit was vacant and available at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the premises. "Presumption" means that the court must find the existence of the presumed fact unless and until the contrary is proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

f. The landlord shall offer any non-comparable unit owned by the landlord to the tenant if a non-comparable unit becomes available before the recovery of possession of the tenant's unit at a rate based on the rent the tenant is paying with an upward or downward adjustment based on the condition, size, and other amenities of the replacement unit. Disputes concerning the initial rent for the replacement unit shall be determined by the Rent Board.

g. Where a landlord recovers possession of a unit under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord is required to provide standard relocation assistance to tenant households where at least one occupant has resided in the unit for one year or more in the amount of \$15,000. The landlord is required to provide an additional \$5,000 relocation assistance to tenant households that qualify as low-income; or include disabled or elderly tenants; minor children; or tenancies which began prior to January 1, 1999. The relocation fees set forth above shall be increased in accordance with the rules set forth in subsection 13.76.130A.9.h below. The procedures for payment of this relocation assistance are set forth below in subsection 13.76.130A.9.p.(i) through (iv). The following definitions apply for any tenant households evicted for owner move-in under subsection 13.76.130A.9:



(i) "Low-income tenants" means persons and families whose income does not exceed the qualifying limits for lower income families as established and amended from time to time pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, or as otherwise defined in Health and Safety Code Section 50079.5.

(ii) A person is "disabled" if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more of a person's major life activities within the meaning of the California Fair Housing and Employment Act (Government Code § 12926).

(iii) "Elderly" is defined as sixty (60) years of age or older.

(iv) "Minor child" means a person who is under 18 years of age.

(v) "Tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999" is a tenancy where an "original occupant" (as defined by Berkeley Rent Board Regulation) still permanently resides in the rental unit.

h. Effective January 1 of each year beginning in 2018, the fees set forth above in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g., may be increased in an amount based on the Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Region averaged for the 12-month period ending June 30, of each year, as determined and published by United States Department of Labor. Any increase shall be published by the Board on or before October 31st of each year.

i. It shall be evidence that the landlord has acted in bad faith if the landlord or the landlord's qualified relative for whom the tenant was evicted does not move into the rental unit within three months from the date of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or occupy said unit as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.

j. Once a landlord has successfully recovered possession of a rental unit pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a., then no other current or

future landlords may recover possession of any other rental unit on the property pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a. It is the intention of this subsection that only one specific unit per property may be used for such occupancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a and that once a unit is used for such occupancy, all future occupancies under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a must be of that same unit.

k. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit has a custodial or family relationship with a minor child who is residing in the unit, the tenant with the custodial or family relationship has resided in the unit for 12 months or more, and the effective date of the notice of termination of tenancy falls during the school year. The term "school year" as used in this subsection means the first day of instruction for the Fall Semester through the first day of the month following the last day of instruction for the Spring Semester, as posted on the Berkeley Unified School District website for each year.

(i) For purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9.k, the term "custodial relationship" means that the person is a legal guardian of the child, or has a caregiver's authorization affidavit for the child as defined by Section 6550 of the California Family Code, or that the person has provided full-time custodial care of the child pursuant to an agreement with the child's legal guardian or court-recognized caregiver and has been providing that care for at least one year or half of the child's lifetime, whichever is less. The term "family relationship" means that the person is the biological or adoptive parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt or uncle of the child, or the spouse or domestic partner of such relations.

l. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit:

(i) Is 60 years of age or older and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(ii) Is disabled and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(iii) Has resided on the property for five years or more and the landlord has a ten percent (10%) or greater ownership interest, in any form whatsoever, in five or more residential rental units in the City of Berkeley.

m. A tenant who claims to be a member of one of the classes protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I must submit a statement, with supporting evidence, to the landlord. A tenant's failure to submit a statement at any point prior to the trial date of an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit shall be deemed an admission that the tenant is not protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I. A landlord may challenge a tenant's claim of protected status by raising it as an issue at trial in an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit.

n. The provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.9.I shall not apply to the following situations:

(i) Where a person is the owner of three or fewer residential units in the City of Berkeley and has no greater than a nine percent (9%) ownership interest in any other residential unit in the City of Berkeley; or

(ii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I and the landlord's qualified relative who is seeking possession of a unit subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.b is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii) above; or

(iii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater

is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I, the landlord has owned the unit for which possession is being sought subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a for five years or more and is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii).

o. Where a landlord recovers possession under Subsection 13.76.130A.9, the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon its next vacancy.

p. When a landlord is required to provide a relocation assistance payment subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, the payment shall be divided among the tenants occupying the rental unit at the time of service of the notice to terminate tenancy.

(i) Within ten days of service of a notice terminating tenancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord shall deposit the standard relocation assistance (for households where an occupant has resided one year or more) with the City or its designated agent to be held in escrow. Within ten days after the funds are deposited into escrow, the City shall release the standard relocation assistance to the tenant household, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(ii) In order to claim entitlement to additional relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, a tenant must notify the landlord and the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she is claiming low-income, disabled, elderly, tenant with minor child status, or a claim that the tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999 (hereinafter "entitlement to additional relocation assistance") per subsection 13.76.130A.9.g within 30 days of filing of notice of termination of tenancy with the Rent Stabilization Program. The landlord shall deposit the additional relocation payment with the Rent Stabilization Program or its designated agent to be held in escrow for any tenant

household who claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance within ten days after such notice claiming entitlement to additional relocation assistance is mailed. Within ten days after the funds are deposited into escrow, the Rent Stabilization Program shall authorize release of the relocation assistance to the tenant household that claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(iii) When a tenant household's eligibility to receive standard or additional relocation assistance as described in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g is disputed, either party may file a Rent Board petition requesting a determination of eligibility or file a claim in a court of competent jurisdiction. The Rent Stabilization Program shall release disputed relocation assistance funds to either the tenant or the landlord upon receipt of either a written agreement by both the landlord and the affected tenant, an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or an order of a City or Rent Board hearing examiner issued pursuant to a petition process conducted in accordance with applicable Rent Board Regulations.

(iv) The landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy prior to any release of relocation payment to the tenants by serving written notice stating such rescission on the tenants. In such instance, the relocation payment shall be released to the landlord. Subsequent to the release of any relocation payment to the tenants, the landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy only upon the written agreement of the tenants to remain in possession of the rental unit. If the tenants remain in possession of the rental units after service of a landlord's written notice of rescission of the eviction, the tenants shall provide an accounting to the landlord of the amount of the relocation payment expended for moving costs, return to the landlord that portion of the relocation

payment not expended for moving costs, and assign to the landlord all rights to recover the amount of relocation payment paid to third parties. If a rescission occurs under this subsection, the tenant(s) shall continue the tenancy on the same terms as before the notice was served.

(v) Where a landlord has served a notice of termination of tenancy on a tenant prior to the date that this amendment takes effect and the notice of termination of tenancy has not expired, the landlord shall deposit the full relocation payment with the City or its designated agent to be held in escrow for the tenants if the tenants have not vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment, and the landlord shall pay the full relocation payment to the tenants if the tenants have vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment. Said deposit in escrow or payment to the tenants shall be made within ten days of the effective date of this amendment.

(vi) Failure of the landlord to make any payment specified herein shall be a defense to any action to recover possession of a rental unit based upon the landlord's termination of tenancy notice pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9). In addition, if the tenants of a rental unit have vacated the unit as a result of a notice of termination of tenancy pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130.A.9), and the landlord fails to make any payment specified herein, the landlord shall be liable to the tenants for three times the amount of the payment as well as reasonable attorney fees.

q. A tenant who prevails in an action brought under this subsection (13.76.130A.9), in addition to any damages and/or costs awarded by the court, shall be entitled to recover all reasonable attorney's fees incurred in bringing or defending the action.

r. At least twice annually, Rent Board staff shall report to the Rent Board regarding the occupancy status of units possession of which has been recovered pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9) within the prior 36 months.

s. If any provision or clause of this subsection (13.76.130A.9) or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional or to be otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or clauses, and to this end the provisions and applications of this subsection are severable.

10. A landlord or lessor seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence, where the landlord or lessor has previously occupied the rental unit as his/her principal residence and has the right to recover possession of the unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence under an existing rental agreement with the current tenants.

11. The tenant fails to vacate a rental unit occupied under the terms of a temporary rental agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.7.c., following expiration of the term of said temporary rental agreement, and following written notice of the availability of tenant's previous rental unit for re-occupancy by tenant (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the completion of repairs on the old rental unit), or of written notice to quit (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the expiration of a period of 90 days).

B. A landlord's failure to specify good cause as listed above in subsections 1. through 11. of Section 13.76.130A. in the notice of termination or the notice to quit and in the complaint for possession shall be a defense to any action for possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter.

C. In any action to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter, except an action to recover possession under subsection

13.76.130A.7., 13.76.130.A.8, or 13.76.130.A.11., a landlord shall allege, as to each rental unit on the property, substantial compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with the implied warranty of habitability and compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with Sections 13.76.100 (Rent Ceiling) and 13.76.080 (Rent Registration) of this chapter.

D. The landlord shall file with the board a copy of any notice of termination, notice to quit, and summons and complaint, within ten days after the tenant has been served with such notice or summons and complaint.

Section 5. Severability. If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The People of the City of Berkeley hereby declare that they would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional. Should any provision of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unlawful, unenforceable, or otherwise void, that determination shall have no effect on any other provision of this Ordinance or the application of this Ordinance to any other person or circumstance and, to that end, the provisions hereof are severable.



Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE A MEASURE AMENDING CHAPTER 13.76 OF THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW RENT CONTROL TO APPLY TO NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS WHERE STATE AND LOCAL LAW DO NOT PROHIBIT RENT CONTROL, AND SPECIFICALLY TO UNITS BUILT AS THE RESULT OF DEMOLITION OF PREVIOUSLY RENT-CONTROLLED UNITS; ALLOW INCREASED OCCUPANCY OF RENTAL UNITS WITHOUT THREAT OF EVICTION; ELIMINATE PROVISION ALLOWING CITY COUNCIL TO EXEMPT UNITS FROM RENT CONTROL IF CITY'S VACANCY RATE EXCEEDS 5% OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD; AND INCREASE EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN LANDLORD-OCCUPIED PROPERTIES.

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance are to regulate residential rent increases in the City of Berkeley and to protect tenants from unwarranted rent increases and arbitrary, discriminatory, or retaliatory evictions, in order to help maintain the diversity of the Berkeley community and to ensure compliance with legal obligations relating to the rental of housing. This legislation is designed to address the City of Berkeley's housing crisis, preserve the public peace, health and safety, and advance the housing policies of the city with regard to low and fixed income persons, minorities, students, handicapped, and the aged; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater protections to tenants in newly constructed units; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater eviction protections for tenants in units that previously did not have such protections; and

WHEREAS, eviction protections will be increased for tenant households that add additional occupants if a landlord has unreasonably refused a tenant's written request; and

WHEREAS, Section 13.76.060 (Decontrol) is to be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, these enumerated amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance will prevent displacement of tenants by extending additional protections and services to tenants who do not enjoy such protections under existing law; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council has elected to submit to the voters at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election, a measure amending Chapter 13.76 of

the Berkeley Municipal Code to allow rent control to apply to new construction built as the result of demolition of previously rent-controlled units, allow increased occupancy of rental units, eliminate a provision allowing the City Council to exempt units from rent control if the citywide vacancy rate exceeds 5%, and increase eviction protections for certain landlord-occupied properties; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10002 and 10403 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is requested to consolidate the City of Berkeley General Municipal Election with the Statewide General Election to be held November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to submit this measure to be placed upon the ballot at said consolidated election.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above enumerated measure requires a majority vote threshold for passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the

statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285 (b), the City Council hereby adopts the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285 (a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Ordinance measure shall appear and be printed upon the ballots to be used at said election as follows:

CITY OF BERKELEY ORDINANCE	
Shall the measure amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to allow rent control to apply to new construction built as a result of demolition of rent-controlled units, where not prohibited by state law; allow a greater number of occupants per rental unit; eliminate a provision allowing the City Council to exempt units from rent control if the citywide vacancy rate exceeds 5% over six months; and limit evictions for certain landlord-occupied properties be adopted?	YES
	NO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the text of the measure be shown as Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Exhibits

A: Text of Measure

Exhibit A

ORDINANCE NO. ##,###-N.S.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY AMENDING CHAPTER 13.76 OF THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW RENT CONTROL TO APPLY TO NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS WHERE STATE AND LOCAL LAW DO NOT PROHIBIT RENT CONTROL AND SPECIFICALLY TO UNITS BUILT AS THE RESULT OF DEMOLITION OF PREVIOUSLY RENT-CONTROLLED UNITS; ALLOW INCREASED OCCUPANCY OF RENTAL UNITS; ELIMINATE PROVISION ALLOWING CITY COUNCIL TO EXEMPT UNITS FROM RENT CONTROL IF CITY'S VACANCY RATE EXCEEDS 5% OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD; AND INCREASE EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN LANDLORD-OCCUPIED PROPERTIES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. Section 13.76.040 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**13.76.040 Definitions.**

- A. "Board" refers to the elected Rent Stabilization Board established by this chapter and Article XVII of the Charter of the City of Berkeley.
- B. "Commissioners" means the members of the board who are denominated commissioners.
- C. "Housing services" include but are not limited to repairs, maintenance, painting, providing light, hot and cold water, elevator service, window shades and screens, storage, kitchen, bath and laundry facilities and privileges, janitor services, refuse removal, furnishing, telephone, parking and any other benefit, privilege or facility connected with the use or occupancy of any rental unit. Services to a rental unit shall include a proportionate part of services provided to common facilities of the building in which the rental unit is contained.

D. "Landlord" means an owner of record, lessor, sublessor or any other person or entity entitled to receive rent for the use or occupancy of any rental unit, or an agent, representative or successor of any of the foregoing.

E. "Rent" means the consideration, including any deposit, bonus, benefit or gratuity demanded or received for or in connection with the use or occupancy of rental units and housing services. Such consideration shall include, but not be limited to, monies and fair market value of goods or services rendered to or for the benefit of the landlord under the rental agreement.

F. "Rental agreement" means an agreement, oral, written or implied, between a landlord and a tenant for use or occupancy of a rental unit and for housing services.

G. "Rental unit" means any unit in any real property, including the land appurtenant thereto, rented or available for rent for residential use or occupancy (including units covered by the Berkeley Live/Work Ordinance No. 5217-NS), located in the City of Berkeley, together with all housing services connected with use or occupancy of such property such as common areas and recreational facilities held out for use by the tenant.

H. "Property" means a parcel of real property which is assessed and taxed as an undivided whole.

I. "Tenant" means any renter, tenant, subtenant, lessee, or sublessee of a rental unit, or successor to a renter's interest, or any group of tenants, subtenants, lessees, or sublessees of any rental unit, or any other person entitled to the use or occupancy of such rental unit.

J. "Skilled nursing facility" means a health facility or a distinct part of a hospital which provides the following basic services: skilled nursing care and supportive care to patients whose primary need is for availability of skilled nursing care on an extended basis. It provides 24-hour inpatient care and, as a minimum, includes medical, nursing, dietary, pharmaceutical services and an activity program. The facility shall have effective arrangements, confirmed in writing, through which services required by the patients, but not regularly provided within the facility, can be obtained promptly when needed.

K. "Health facility" means any facility, place or building which is organized, maintained and operated for the diagnosis, care and treatment of human illness, physical or mental, including convalescence and rehabilitation and including care during and after pregnancy, or for any one or more of these purposes, for one or more persons, to which such persons are admitted for a 24-hour stay or longer.

L. "Recognized tenant organization" means any group of tenants, residing in rental units in the same building or in different buildings operated by the same management company, agent or landlord, which requests to be so designated.

M. "Rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent which a landlord may charge on any rental unit covered by this chapter.

N. "Base rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent established under Section 13.76.100 of this chapter.

O. "Fees" means for the purpose of this chapter, a charge fixed by law for services of public officers or for use of a privilege under control of government.

P. "Nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education" means a post secondary educational institution whose legal status under the California Education Code is verified by an annual validation receipt from the California State Department of Education, and which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or the Association of Theological Schools and which is exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and under Section 23701(d) of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and which, if otherwise required by law to do so, has obtained a valid unrevoked letter or ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or from the Franchise Tax Board which states that the organization so qualifies for exemption from taxation.

Q. "Newly Constructed" means a rental unit created after June 30, 1980. For purposes of this definition, the date a unit was created is based upon the date of the first certificate of occupancy issued for the subject unit. However, in the event of the repeal or amendment of Civil Code Section 1954.52, such that "certificate of occupancy" is no longer the operative standard set forth under state law, the date a unit was created shall be determined by the final inspection approval by the City.

R. Notwithstanding any other provision in this ordinance, and to the extent that state or local law does not prohibit a local jurisdiction from regulating the rent on a residential rental unit, such units shall not be exempt as “newly constructed units” and, unless otherwise exempt, shall be covered by all provisions of this chapter. This includes, but is not limited to, any residential rental units created as a result of demolition or replacement where such demolition or replacement is affected via the creation of a “housing development project” as defined in the Housing Crisis Act of 2019 (Senate Bill 330).

Section 2: Section 13.76.050 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

### **13.76.050 Applicability**

This chapter shall apply to all real property that is being rented or is available for rent for residential use in whole or in part, except for the following:

- A. Rental units which are owned by any government agency. However, the exemption of units owned by the Berkeley Housing Authority from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter.
- B. Rental units which are rented primarily to transient guests for use or occupancy less than fourteen consecutive days in establishments such as hotels, motels, inns, tourist homes, and rooming and boarding houses. However, the payment of rent every fourteen days or less shall not by itself exempt any unit from coverage by this chapter.
- C. Rental units in nonprofit cooperatives owned and controlled by a majority of the residents.
- D. Rental units leased to tenants assisted under the Section 8 program (42 U.S.C. Section 1437f) or the Shelter Plus Care Program (42 U.S.C. 11403 et. seq.) or similar federally funded rent subsidy program. Except as may be preempted by state or federal

law, the exemption of such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. However, the exemption from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 shall apply only for so long as the rent demanded does not exceed the authorized Payment Standard, which, for purposes of this subsection, is the maximum monthly rental assistance potentially available to an assisted household before deducting the household share of income paid for rent and utilities as established by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency. For units where the rent demanded exceeds the Payment Standard, the Payment Standard or an initial rent above the Payment Standard if approved by the Berkeley Housing Authority, as reported to the board by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency, shall become the unit's base rent ceiling and the reference point from which the rent ceiling shall be adjusted in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.

E. Rental units in any hospital, skilled nursing facility, health facility, asylum, or non-profit home for the aged.

F. Rental units in a residential property which is divided into a maximum of four units where one of such units is occupied by the landlord as his/her principal residence. Any exemption of rental units established under this subsection (13.76.050 F.) shall be limited to rental units that would have been exempt under the provisions of this chapter had this chapter been in effect on December 31, 1979. After July 1, 1982, this exemption shall no longer apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into three or four units. It shall continue to apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into two units, and which meet all the other requirements of this subsection (13.76.050F). However, the exemption of such rental units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. Rental units which become non-exempt under this provision shall have the provisions of Subsections 13.76.080I and 13.76.100C. applied to them.



G. A rental unit in a residential property where the landlord shares kitchen or bath facilities with the tenant(s) of such rental unit and where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence.

H. For the purposes of Subsections 13.76.050 F. and G., the term landlord shall be defined only as the owner of record holding at least 50% interest in the property.

I. Newly constructed rental units, as defined in Section 13.76.040 Q. However, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. To the extent that state law permits, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to the first 20 years after completion of construction.

J. A rental unit which is rented by a nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education to a tenant or tenants who are student(s), faculty, or staff of the institution or of a member school of the Graduate Theological Union, provided, however, that the institution owned the unit as of January 1, 1988.

K. A rental unit in a residential property owned by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is rented to a low income tenant and subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency that controls the unit's rent levels. However, the exemption for such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings of this chapter and shall apply only for so long as the regulatory agreement is in effect. This exemption shall not apply to rental units at the property that are not subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency or that are rented by a tenant who occupied the unit prior to the property's acquisition by the tax-exempt organization.

L. Rental units in a facility owned or leased by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that has the

primary purpose of operating a treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program for qualified clients, where such rental units are provided incident to the client's participation in the primary program and where the client has been informed in writing of the temporary or transitional nature of the housing at the inception of his or her participation in the program. However, except as may be preempted by the Transitional Housing Participant Misconduct Act (California Health and Safety Code Sections 50580 et. seq.) or other state or federal law, such rental units shall not be exempted from the terms of Section 13.76.130, Good Cause Required for Eviction. For purposes of Section 13.76.130.A.2, the client's continued eligibility for participation in the treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program shall be deemed a material term of the client's rental agreement with the program's operator.

M. A rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority recognized by the University of California Berkeley, or a rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority identified by Rent Board Resolution. To qualify for the exemption, the rental unit must be owned by the fraternity or sorority or by an entity whose sole purpose is the maintenance and operation of the fraternity or sorority's rental units for the benefit of the members in order to provide housing to said members at cost.

N. A rental unit in a residential property containing only a Single Family Dwelling (as defined in Subtitle 23F.04 of the Zoning Ordinance) and one lawfully established and fully permitted Accessory Dwelling Unit where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence. This subsection (13.76.050N) shall only apply to properties containing a single Accessory Dwelling Unit, shall only apply to units compliant with all applicable requirements of Chapter 23C.24 ("Accessory Dwelling Units"), and shall only apply to tenancies created after November 7, 2018. However, the exemption of such rental units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter.

O. A dwelling or a unit alienable separate from the title to any other dwelling unit unless the tenancy commenced before January 1, 1996. However, the exemption of

such units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. A property owner who owns only one residential unit in the City of Berkeley, and occupied that residential unit for 365 consecutive days as their principal residence immediately prior to renting the unit, and is absent from the unit for a period not to exceed 24 months, and such period is specified in the lease, shall also be exempt from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration, of this Chapter. The exemptions provided in this Section shall apply only as long as the pertinent provisions of California Civil Code Section 1954.50 et. seq. ("Costa-Hawkins") remain in effect and require such an exemption.

Section 3: Section 13.76.060 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**13.76.060 Rent Stabilization Board**

- A. Composition. There shall be in the city of Berkeley an elected rent stabilization board; the board shall consist of nine commissioners. The board shall elect annually as chairperson one of its members to serve in that capacity.
- B. Eligibility. Residents who are duly qualified electors of the city of Berkeley are eligible to serve as commissioners on the board.
- C. Full disclosure of holdings. Candidates for the position of commissioner shall fulfill the requirements as set forth in the City Charter in Article III, Section 6 1/2.

In addition, when filing nomination papers, candidates shall submit a verified statement of their interests and dealings in real property, including but not limited to its ownership, sale or management and investment in and association with partnerships, corporations, joint ventures and syndicates engaged in its ownership, sale or management during the previous three years.

D. Election of commissioners. Commissioners shall be elected at the statewide general election held in November of even numbered years.

E. Terms of office. Commissioners' terms of office shall be as set forth in Article XVII of the Berkeley City Charter.

F. Powers and duties. The elected rent stabilization board shall have the power to determine, to arbitrate and to set rent levels, whether through general or individual adjustments, of any unit which has controlled rents under any Berkeley Ordinance, and to administer any Berkeley program which regulates rents and evictions. The board shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Set the rent ceilings for all rental units.
2. Require registration of all rental units under Section 13.76.080.
3. Publicize the manner in which the base rent ceiling is established under Section 13.76.100.
4. To make adjustments in the rent ceiling in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.
5. Set rents at fair and equitable levels in view of and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter.
6. To issue orders, rules and regulations, conduct hearings and charge fees as set below.
7. Make such studies, surveys and investigations, conduct such hearings, and obtain such information as is necessary to carry out its powers and duties.
8. Report annually to the city council of the city of Berkeley on the status of rental housing units covered by this chapter.
9. Request the City Council to remove rent controls under Section 13.76.060Q.

10. Administer oaths and affirmations and subpoena witnesses and relevant documents.
11. Establish rules and regulations for settling civil claims under Section 13.76.150.
12. Seek injunctive relief under Section 13.76.150.
13. Pursue civil remedies in courts of appropriate jurisdiction.
14. Intervene as an interested party in any litigation brought before a court of appropriate jurisdiction by a landlord or tenant with respect to rental units covered by this chapter.
15. Hold public hearings.
16. Charge and collect registration fees, including penalties for late payments.
17. Other powers necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter which are not inconsistent with the terms of this chapter.
18. Except as provided in Section 13.76.060N of this chapter, the board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses for its operation without the use of general fund monies of the city of Berkeley.

G. Rules and Regulations: The board shall issue and follow such rules and regulations, including those which are contained in this Chapter, as will further the purposes of this Chapter. The board shall publicize its rules and regulations prior to promulgation in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the city of Berkeley.

All rules and regulations and relevant documents explaining the decisions, orders, and policies of the board shall be kept in the board's office and shall be available to the public for inspection and copying.

The board shall publicize this Chapter so that all residents of Berkeley will have the opportunity to become informed about their legal rights and duties under this Chapter.

The board shall prepare a brochure which fully describes the legal rights and duties of landlords and tenants under this Chapter. The brochure shall be made available to the public.

H. Meetings: The board shall hold regularly scheduled meetings. Special meetings shall be called at the request of at least a majority of the commissioners of the board. The board shall hold its initial meeting no later than July 15, 1980.

I. Quorum: Five commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the board.

J. Voting: The affirmative vote of five commissioners of the board is required for a decision, including all motions, rules, regulations, and orders of the board.

K. Compensation: The rent stabilization board shall be a working board. Commissioners shall be paid compensation and benefits in an amount set by the board in order to compensate commissioners for their time and work performed as required by this chapter and the city charter.

L. Dockets: The board shall maintain and keep in its office all hearing dockets, which shall be available for public inspection.

M. Vacancies: If a vacancy shall occur on the board, a qualified person to fill such vacancy shall be selected in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article V of the City Charter.

N. Financing: The board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses by charging landlords annual registration fees in amounts deemed reasonable by the board. The registration fee for partially-exempt units shall reasonably approximate the cost of registration and counseling services for such units, and shall not include the cost of services from which such units are exempt. Such registration fees shall not be passed on to tenants in the form of rent increases except with the express prior approval of the board. The board is also empowered to request and receive funding, when and if necessary, from the city of Berkeley and/or any other available source for its reasonable and necessary expenses, including expenses incurred at the request of the City.

O. Staff: The board shall be a working board and shall employ such staff as may be necessary to perform its functions efficiently and as provided by Berkeley Ordinance.

P. Registration: The board shall require the registration of all rental units covered by this chapter as provided for in Section 13.76.080. The board may also require landlords to provide current information supplementing their registration statements.

~~Q.—Decontrol: If the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the city of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six month period, the city council is empowered, upon request by the board, at its discretion and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter, to exempt rental units covered by this chapter from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.100, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 of this chapter. In determining the vacancy rate for the city of Berkeley the board and the city council shall consider all available data and may conduct their own survey. If units are exempted pursuant to this Subsection Q coverage shall be reimposed if the city council finds that the average annual vacancy rate has thereafter fallen below five percent. Prior to any decision to exempt or renew coverage for rental units under this Subsection Q the board shall hold at least two public hearings.~~

~~R.~~ Q. Conflict of Interest: Commissioners shall be subject to the requirements of the California Political Reform Act and other applicable state and local conflict of interest codes. Commissioners shall not necessarily be disqualified from exercising any of their powers and duties on the grounds of a conflict of interest solely on the basis of their status as a landlord or tenant. However, a commissioner shall be disqualified from ruling on a petition for an individual adjustment of a rent ceiling under Section 13.76.120, where the commissioner is either the landlord of the property or a tenant residing in the property that is involved in the petition.

Section 4: Section 13.76.130 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows

**13.76.130 Good cause required for eviction**

A. No landlord shall be entitled to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter unless said landlord shows the existence of one of the following grounds:

1. The tenant has failed to pay rent to which the landlord is legally entitled pursuant to the lease or rental agreement and under the provisions of state or local law, unless the tenant has withheld rent pursuant to applicable law; and said failure has continued after service on the tenant of a written notice setting forth the amount of rent then due and requiring it to be paid, within a period, specified in the notice, of not less than three days. Rent that is lawfully withheld pursuant to emergency legislation that authorizes rent withholding during the effective period of a state of emergency applicable in Berkeley shall not constitute grounds for recovery of possession except as expressly provided in the applicable emergency legislation. Emergency legislation adopted during the emergency may prohibit recovery of possession for lawfully withheld rent even after the expiration of a state or local emergency.

2. The tenant has continued, after written notice to cease, to substantially violate any of the material terms of the rental agreement, except the obligation to surrender possession on proper notice as required by law, and provided that such terms are reasonable and legal and have been accepted in writing by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement; and provided further that, where such terms have been accepted by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement subsequent to the initial creation of the tenancy, the landlord shall have first notified the tenant in writing that he or she need not accept such terms or agree to their being made part of the rental agreement. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this chapter or in the rental agreement, a landlord is not entitled to recover possession of a rental unit under this subsection where a tenant permits his or her rental unit to be occupied by a subtenant, provided:

a. The landlord has unreasonably withheld consent to the subtenancy; and



- b. The tenant remains an actual occupant of the rental unit; and
- c. The number of tenants and subtenants actually occupying the rental unit does not exceed ~~the number of occupants originally allowed by the rental agreement or the board's regulations, whichever is greater~~ the maximum number of occupants legally allowed under Section 503.2 of the Uniform Housing Code as incorporated by California Health & Safety Code Section 17922, except where prohibited by law.
- d. Withholding of consent by the landlord shall be deemed to be unreasonable where:
  - (i) ~~The tenant's written request for consent was given at least two weeks prior to commencement of the subtenancy; tenant has made a written request to the landlord to either sublet the unit and/or add additional occupants, and the landlord has failed to respond in writing within fourteen (14) days of the tenant's request; or~~
  - (ii) The proposed new subtenant has, upon the landlord's written request, completed the landlord's standard form application or provided sufficient information to allow the landlord to conduct a standard background check, including references and credit, income and other reasonable background information, and the proposed new subtenant or additional occupant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and or
  - ~~(iii) The proposed new subtenant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and~~
  - ~~(iii iv)~~ (iii iv) The landlord has not articulated in writing a well-founded reason for refusing consent. A landlord's reasonable denial may not be based on the proposed occupant's lack of credit worthiness or income if that occupant will not be legally obligated to pay some or all of the rent to the landlord.

e. Where a landlord can establish that the proposed additional occupant presents a direct threat to the health, safety, or security of other residents of the property, the landlord shall have the right to deny the proposed tenant's occupancy.

f. Before initiating an action to recover possession based on the violation of a lawful obligation or covenant of tenancy regarding subletting or limits on the number of occupants in the rental unit, the landlord shall serve the tenant a written notice of the violation that provides the tenant with a minimum of fourteen (14) days to cure the violation. The notice must also inform the tenant(s) of their right to add subtenants and/or add additional occupants pursuant to this section.

3. The tenant has willfully caused or allowed substantial damage to the premises beyond normal wear and tear and has refused, after written notice, to pay the reasonable costs of repairing such damage and cease damaging said premises.
4. The tenant has refused to agree to a new rental agreement upon expiration of a prior rental agreement, but only where the new rental agreement contains provisions that are substantially identical to the prior rental agreement, and is not inconsistent with local, state and federal laws.
5. The tenant has continued, following written notice to cease, to be so disorderly as to destroy the peace and quiet of other tenants or occupants of the premises or the tenant is otherwise subject to eviction pursuant to subdivision 4 of Code of Civil Procedure Section 1161.
6. The tenant has, after written notice to cease, refused the landlord access to the unit as required by state or local law.
7. a. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to undertake substantial repairs which are necessary to bring the property into compliance with applicable codes and laws affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building or where necessary under an outstanding notice of code

violations affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building, and where such repairs cannot be completed while the tenant resides on the premises.

b. Where such repairs can be completed in a period of 60 or fewer days, and the tenant, within 30 days after the service of a notice of termination of his or her tenancy, agrees in writing to vacate the premises during the period required to complete the repairs at no charge to the landlord, other than abatement of the obligation to pay rent for the premises during the period required to complete the repairs, the landlord may not recover possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.) unless the tenant shall fail or refuse to vacate the premises in accordance with such agreement.

c. Where the landlord owns any other residential rental units in the City of Berkeley, and any such unit is vacant and available at the time of premises or the entry of a judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, the landlord shall, as a condition of obtaining possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), notify tenant in writing of the existence and address of each such vacant rental unit and offer tenant the right, at the tenant's option:

(i) To enter into a rental agreement (to be designated as a "temporary rental agreement") on any available rental unit which the tenant may choose, at a rent not to exceed the lesser of the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit or the lawful rent in effect, at the time of the notice of termination of tenancy, on the unit being vacated, said rental agreement to be for a term of the lesser of ninety days or until completion of repairs on the rental unit being vacated by tenant; or

(ii) To enter into a new rental agreement or lease for such available rental unit at a rent not to exceed the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit.

d. Where the landlord recovers possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon completion of the required work. In the event the landlord files an application for an individual rent adjustment within six months following the completion of the work, the tenant shall be a party to such proceeding the same as if he or she were still in possession, unless the landlord shall submit, with such application, a written waiver by the tenant of his or her right to re-occupy the premises pursuant to this subsection.

8. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit, in order to remove the rental unit from the market by demolition.

9. Owner Move-in Evictions.

a. The landlord seeks in good faith with honest intent and without ulterior motive to recover possession for his/her own use and occupancy as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months; or

b. For the use and occupancy as the principal residence by the landlord's spouse or by the landlord's child, or parent for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.

c. For the purposes of this subsection (13.76.130A.9.), the term landlord shall be defined as the owner of record, as of the time of giving of a notice terminating tenancy, and at all times thereafter to and including the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, holding at least a 50% interest in the property and shall not include a lessor, sublessor, or agent of the owner of record.

d. All notices terminating tenancy pursuant to subsection 13.76.130.A.9 shall include the following: the existence and

potential availability of relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g; the existence of tenant protections for families with minor children as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.k; the name and relationship of any qualified relative for purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9.b; and the landlord's ownership interest in any residential properties in the City of Berkeley where such interest, in any form whatsoever, is ten percent (10%) or greater. The landlord shall, within ten days of giving notice, file a copy of the notice terminating tenancy with the Rent Board.

e. The landlord may not recover possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.9.) if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley, was, at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the rental unit, already vacant and available, or if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley, thereafter becomes vacant at any time until the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord. In an action by or against the tenant, evidence that a comparable unit was vacant and available within ninety days prior to the date of a notice terminating the tenant's tenancy shall create a presumption that such unit was vacant and available at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the premises. "Presumption" means that the court must find the existence of the presumed fact unless and until the contrary is proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

f. The landlord shall offer any non-comparable unit owned by the landlord to the tenant if a non-comparable unit becomes available before the recovery of possession of the tenant's unit at a rate based on the rent the tenant is paying with an upward or downward adjustment based on the condition, size, and other amenities of the replacement unit. Disputes concerning the initial rent for the replacement unit shall be determined by the Rent Board.

g. Where a landlord recovers possession of a unit under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord is required to provide standard relocation assistance to tenant households where at least one occupant has resided in the unit for one year or more in the amount of \$15,000. The landlord is required to provide an additional \$5,000 relocation assistance to tenant households that qualify as low-income; or include disabled or elderly tenants; minor children; or tenancies which began prior to January 1, 1999. The relocation fees set forth above shall be increased in accordance with the rules set forth in subsection 13.76.130A.9.h below. The procedures for payment of this relocation assistance are set forth below in subsection 13.76.130A.9.p.(i) through (iv). The following definitions apply for any tenant households evicted for owner move-in under subsection 13.76.130A.9:

(i) "Low-income tenants" means persons and families whose income does not exceed the qualifying limits for lower income families as established and amended from time to time pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, or as otherwise defined in Health and Safety Code Section 50079.5.

(ii) A person is "disabled" if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more of a person's major life activities within the meaning of the California Fair Housing and Employment Act (Government Code § 12926).

(iii) "Elderly" is defined as sixty (60) years of age or older.

(iv) "Minor child" means a person who is under 18 years of age.

(v) "Tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999" is a tenancy where an "original occupant" (as defined by Berkeley Rent Board Regulation) still permanently resides in the rental unit.

h. Effective January 1 of each year beginning in 2018, the fees set forth above in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g., may be increased in an amount based on the Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers in

the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Region averaged for the 12-month period ending June 30, of each year, as determined and published by United States Department of Labor. Any increase shall be published by the Board on or before October 31st of each year.

i. It shall be evidence that the landlord has acted in bad faith if the landlord or the landlord's qualified relative for whom the tenant was evicted does not move into the rental unit within three months from the date of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or occupy said unit as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.

j. Once a landlord has successfully recovered possession of a rental unit pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a., then no other current or future landlords may recover possession of any other rental unit on the property pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a. It is the intention of this subsection that only one specific unit per property may be used for such occupancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a and that once a unit is used for such occupancy, all future occupancies under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a must be of that same unit.

k. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit has a custodial or family relationship with a minor child who is residing in the unit, the tenant with the custodial or family relationship has resided in the unit for 12 months or more, and the effective date of the notice of termination of tenancy falls during the school year. The term "school year" as used in this subsection means the first day of instruction for the Fall Semester through the first day of the month following the last day of instruction for the Spring Semester, as posted on the Berkeley Unified School District website for each year.

(i) For purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9.k, the term "custodial relationship" means that the person is a legal guardian of the child, or has a caregiver's authorization affidavit for the child as defined

by Section 6550 of the California Family Code, or that the person has provided full-time custodial care of the child pursuant to an agreement with the child's legal guardian or court-recognized caregiver and has been providing that care for at least one year or half of the child's lifetime, whichever is less. The term "family relationship" means that the person is the biological or adoptive parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt or uncle of the child, or the spouse or domestic partner of such relations.

I. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit:

(i) Is 60 years of age or older and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(ii) Is disabled and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(iii) Has resided on the property for five years or more and the landlord has a ten percent (10%) or greater ownership interest, in any form whatsoever, in five or more residential rental units in the City of Berkeley.

m. A tenant who claims to be a member of one of the classes protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I must submit a statement, with supporting evidence, to the landlord. A tenant's failure to submit a statement at any point prior to the trial date of an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit shall be deemed an admission that the tenant is not protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I. A landlord may challenge a tenant's claim of protected status by raising it as an issue at trial in an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit.

n. The provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.9.I shall not apply to the following situations:



(i) Where a person is the owner of three or fewer residential units in the City of Berkeley and has no greater than a nine percent (9%) ownership interest in any other residential unit in the City of Berkeley; or

(ii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I and the landlord's qualified relative who is seeking possession of a unit subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.b is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii) above; or

(iii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I, the landlord has owned the unit for which possession is being sought subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a for five years or more and is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii).

o. Where a landlord recovers possession under Subsection 13.76.130A.9, the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon its next vacancy.

p. When a landlord is required to provide a relocation assistance payment subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, the payment shall be divided among the tenants occupying the rental unit at the time of service of the notice to terminate tenancy.

(i) Within ten days of service of a notice terminating tenancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord shall deposit the standard relocation assistance (for households where an occupant has resided one year or more) with the City or its designated agent to be held in escrow. Within ten days after the funds are deposited

into escrow, the City shall release the standard relocation assistance to the tenant household, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(ii) In order to claim entitlement to additional relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, a tenant must notify the landlord and the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she is claiming low-income, disabled, elderly, tenant with minor child status, or a claim that the tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999 (hereinafter "entitlement to additional relocation assistance") per subsection 13.76.130A.9.g within 30 days of filing of notice of termination of tenancy with the Rent Stabilization Program. The landlord shall deposit the additional relocation payment with the Rent Stabilization Program or its designated agent to be held in escrow for any tenant household who claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance within ten days after such notice claiming entitlement to additional relocation assistance is mailed. Within ten days after the funds are deposited into escrow, the Rent Stabilization Program shall authorize release of the relocation assistance to the tenant household that claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(iii) When a tenant household's eligibility to receive standard or additional relocation assistance as described in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g is disputed, either party may file a Rent Board petition requesting a determination of eligibility or file a claim in a court of competent jurisdiction. The Rent Stabilization Program shall release disputed relocation assistance funds to either the tenant or the landlord upon receipt of either a written agreement by both the landlord and the affected tenant, an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or an order of a City or Rent Board hearing

examiner issued pursuant to a petition process conducted in accordance with applicable Rent Board Regulations.

(iv) The landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy prior to any release of relocation payment to the tenants by serving written notice stating such rescission on the tenants. In such instance, the relocation payment shall be released to the landlord. Subsequent to the release of any relocation payment to the tenants, the landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy only upon the written agreement of the tenants to remain in possession of the rental unit. If the tenants remain in possession of the rental units after service of a landlord's written notice of rescission of the eviction, the tenants shall provide an accounting to the landlord of the amount of the relocation payment expended for moving costs, return to the landlord that portion of the relocation payment not expended for moving costs, and assign to the landlord all rights to recover the amount of relocation payment paid to third parties. If a rescission occurs under this subsection, the tenant(s) shall continue the tenancy on the same terms as before the notice was served.

(v) Where a landlord has served a notice of termination of tenancy on a tenant prior to the date that this amendment takes effect and the notice of termination of tenancy has not expired, the landlord shall deposit the full relocation payment with the City or its designated agent to be held in escrow for the tenants if the tenants have not vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment, and the landlord shall pay the full relocation payment to the tenants if the tenants have vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment. Said deposit in escrow or payment to the tenants shall be made within ten days of the effective date of this amendment.

(vi) Failure of the landlord to make any payment specified herein shall be a defense to any action to recover possession of a rental unit based upon the landlord's termination of tenancy notice pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9). In addition, if the tenants of a rental unit have vacated the unit as a result of a notice of termination of tenancy pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130.A.9), and the landlord fails to make any payment specified herein, the landlord shall be liable to the tenants for three times the amount of the payment as well as reasonable attorney fees.

q. A tenant who prevails in an action brought under this subsection (13.76.130A.9), in addition to any damages and/or costs awarded by the court, shall be entitled to recover all reasonable attorney's fees incurred in bringing or defending the action.

r. At least twice annually, Rent Board staff shall report to the Rent Board regarding the occupancy status of units possession of which has been recovered pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9) within the prior 36 months.

s. If any provision or clause of this subsection (13.76.130A.9) or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional or to be otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or clauses, and to this end the provisions and applications of this subsection are severable.

10. A landlord or lessor seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence, where the landlord or lessor has previously occupied the rental unit as his/her principal residence and has the right to recover possession of the unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence under an existing rental agreement with the current tenants.

11. The tenant fails to vacate a rental unit occupied under the terms of a temporary rental agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.7.c., following expiration of the term of said temporary rental agreement, and following written notice of the availability of tenant's previous rental unit for re-occupancy by tenant (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the completion of repairs on the old rental unit), or of written notice to quit (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the expiration of a period of 90 days).

B. A landlord's failure to specify good cause as listed above in subsections 1. through 11. of Section 13.76.130A. in the notice of termination or the notice to quit and in the complaint for possession shall be a defense to any action for possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter.

C. In any action to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter, except an action to recover possession under subsection 13.76.130A.7., 13.76.130.A.8, or 13.76.130.A.11., a landlord shall allege, as to each rental unit on the property, substantial compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with the implied warranty of habitability and compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with Sections 13.76.100 (Rent Ceiling) and 13.76.080 (Rent Registration) of this chapter.

D. The landlord shall file with the board a copy of any notice of termination, notice to quit, and summons and complaint, within ten days after the tenant has been served with such notice or summons and complaint.

Section 5. Severability. If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The People of the City of Berkeley hereby declare that they would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional.



**Rent Stabilization Board  
Office of the Executive Director**

ACTION CALENDAR  
August 3, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
FROM: 4 x 4 Joint Committee on Housing City Council/Rent Board  
SUBMITTED BY: Matt Brown, General Counsel, Rent Stabilization Board  
SUBJECT: Placing a Measure on the November 8, 2022 Ballot Amending the  
Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance (B.M.C. 13.76)

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RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a Resolution placing the proposed amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance on the ballot of the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election.
2. Designate, by motion, specific members of the Council to file ballot measure arguments on this measure as provided for in Elections Code Section 9282.

SUMMARY

The Rent Stabilization Board and 4 x 4 Committee on Housing City Council/Rent Board has recommended a set of amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance (B.M.C. Chapter 13.76). These amendments set forth the following changes:

1. Amend the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to allow for rent control to attach to all residential rental units where state law does not prohibit it, and specifically allow Council to designate new units as rent-controlled when they are created pursuant to demolition projects as allowed by Senate Bill 330;
2. Eliminate the good cause for Eviction that allows landlords to evict tenants who have exceeded previously established occupancy limits unless the number of occupants

currently in the rental unit exceeds the maximum number of occupants legally allowed under Section 503(b)(2) of the Uniform Housing Code as incorporated by California Health & Safety Code Section 17922;

3. Eliminate B.M.C. Section 13.76.060Q, which allows Council, upon request by the Board, to decontrol rental units in the event the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the City of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six-month period;
4. Add eviction protections for certain units that do not currently have them.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There will be a financial cost to the City limited to the costs associated with placing the measure on the ballot. Each additional measure added to the ballot increases the costs to the city.

If more rental units are fully covered by the Ordinance, Registration fees currently mandated by B.M.C. 13.76.080 for fully covered rental units may decrease as a result of economies of scale to provide services to all fully-covered units.

#### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Berkeley voters passed Measure D in June 1980, establishing the current Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance as codified in Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 13.76. Berkeley City Council has, periodically, placed measures on the general ballot for the voters to decide when the Board recommends amendments.

1. Expansion of Rent Control to Cover Units Created as the Result of Demolition Pursuant to SB 330 and make clear that Rent Control Applies to all Units unless Specifically Prohibited by State Law

The Rent Ordinance currently defines “new construction” as a rental unit that was created after June 30, 1980. The date a unit was created is based upon the date of issuance of the first certificate of occupancy. While newly constructed units are partially covered by the Rent Ordinance (Registration, Security Deposit Interest, and Good Cause Eviction Protections), they are not covered by rent control.

2. Allow for Increased Occupancy of Rental Units Without Threat of Eviction

The Ordinance specifically provides a ground for eviction when any subletting by the tenant household results in an increase above the base occupancy level. A tenant household may also be evicted from their rental unit if they substantially violate a material term of the rental agreement, and a landlord may argue that households that exceed the base occupancy level may be evicted

for this reason.

3. Eliminate “Decontrol” Clause from the Ordinance

The elected Board may request that Council decontrol rental units if the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the city of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six-month period.

4. Add Eviction Protections to Rental Units that do not Currently Receive Them

The Rent Ordinance fully exempts a subset of owner-occupied duplexes from the Rent Ordinance. These “golden duplexes” are ones that are currently owner-occupied as a principal residence and were owner-occupied (not necessarily by the same owner) on December 31, 1979.

The Rent Ordinance also fully exempts rental units on properties with a permitted Accessory Dwelling Unit where one unit on the property is owner-occupied as a principal residence and the tenancy was created after November 7, 2018.

Tenant occupied units on these properties do not have eviction protections articulated in the Rent Ordinance when the property owner occupies a unit on the property as their principal residence.

BACKGROUND

1. Expansion of Rent Control to Cover Units Created as the Result of Demolition Pursuant to SB 330 and make clear that Rent Control Applies to all Units unless Specifically Prohibited by State Law

SB 330 allows cities to impose rent control protections on units that are built as the result of demolition of previously-controlled units. The Housing Crisis Act of 2019 requires all housing projects that demolish existing residential units to create as least as many residential units as are being demolished. Projects that contain "protected units," which include residential units that have been subject to a local rent control program within the previous five years, are required to provide replacement units at an affordable rent (or sales price) with the same number of bedrooms as the demolished unit. The affordability level of a replacement unit is based on the income level of the last household occupying the demolished unit and must be rented (or sold) at a rate that is affordable to occupants of the same income category or lower. If a "protected unit" was last occupied by persons or families above the low-income category, the affected city has the option to require that the housing project provide: 1) a replacement unit affordable to low-income households for a period of at least 55 years, or 2) a replacement unit that complies with the jurisdiction's rent or price control ordinance.

Currently, the Rent Control Ordinance expressly exempts newly constructed units from Chapters 10 (Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting), 11 (Annual General Adjustment of Rent



Ceilings) and 12 (Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings) of Ordinance. These residential units are subject to the registration requirements of Measure MM, are covered by good cause for eviction, and are entitled to annual security deposit interest, but they are not subject to local rent controls. SB 330 would allow for these new units created as the result of demolition to be fully covered by the rent control provisions of the ordinance should the City choose that option when approving new construction that was the result of demolition of existing qualifying units.

The 4 x 4 Committee also directed staff to draft language that would amend the Rent Ordinance to make clear that all newly constructed units are fully rent-controlled unless otherwise prohibited by state law.

The Board voted unanimously to support this proposal on March 17, 2022, and the 4 x 4 Committee voted on May 3, 2022, to support this proposal. The approved language is set forth in Attachment A, in subsections 13.76.040 and 13.76.050.

## 2. Allow for Increased Occupancy of Rental Units Without Threat of Eviction

The 4 x 4 Committee also recommended that the Ordinance be amended to prohibit evictions based on the addition of occupants if the landlord has unreasonably refused the tenant's written request, including a refusal based on the number of occupants allowed by the rental agreement or lease.

Tenants' ability to add additional occupants to their household can be a precarious proposition given that a good cause for eviction lies when a tenant household substantially violates a material term of the rental agreement. While tenants are currently protected from eviction when there is one-for-one replacement of tenants, the Ordinance specifically provides a ground for eviction when any subletting by the tenant household results in an increase above the base occupancy level (B.M.C. 13.76.130A.2.(c)).

While the Board has express authority to regulate the manner and grounds for which rents may be increased or decreased,<sup>1</sup> the grounds for eviction are hard-coded in the Ordinance (B.M.C. 13.76.130.). One such basis for eviction is when the "...tenant has continued...to substantially violate any of the material terms of the rental agreement..."(B.M.C. 13.76.130A.2.). Thus, while Board Regulation 1270 can be amended to allow for an increase in the base occupancy level of a unit without a corresponding rent increase, the regulation cannot override the good cause for eviction based on a lease violation, such as when a household has more occupants than those allowed pursuant to the initial agreement between the landlord and tenant.

The current proposal would allow tenants to exceed the base occupancy limits without risk of eviction unless the number of occupants exceeds the maximum number of occupants legally

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<sup>1</sup> See B.M.C. Section 13.76.120C.

allowed under 503(b)(2) of the Uniform Housing Code as incorporated by California Health & Safety Code Section 17922. Landlords would still have the ability to deny occupancy to a tenant if the proposed subtenant does not meet the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications or if the proposed subtenant presents a direct threat to the health, safety, or security of other residents of the property.

The Board voted unanimously to support this proposal on March 17, 2022, and the 4 x 4 Committee voted on May 3, 2022, to support this proposal. The approved language is set forth in Attachment A, in subsection 13.76.130.

### 3. Eliminate "Decontrol" Clause from the Ordinance

The Rent Ordinance has a section that allows the Berkeley City Council (upon request by the Board) to exempt units from rent control should vacancy rates reach 5% over a six-month period.<sup>2</sup> While Council has the discretion to eliminate rent controls for units (it is not mandatory), this clause is inconsistent with the Charter and most all of the Rent Ordinance which establishes the Board's separate authority to regulate rents and administer the law independent of any other elected or appointed body.

Moreover, given that both the Charter and Rent Ordinance are voter-adopted initiatives, it follows that the issue of decontrol would be put before the voters in the event that the community decides to eliminate local rent control. Council has no other authority to interfere either substantively or procedurally in the Board's administration, so removing this clause will be consistent with the overall operation of the rent program and the law the Board and staff administer.

The proposal would be to simply eliminate this paragraph from the Rent Ordinance.

The Board voted unanimously to support this proposal on March 17, 2022, and the 4 x 4 Committee voted on May 3, 2022, to support this proposal. The approved language is set forth in Attachment A, in subsection 13.76.060.

### 4. Add Eviction Protections to Rental Units that do not Currently Receive Them

The 4 x 4 Committee voted on a proposal that would protect more tenants from eviction. The Committee particularly expressed concern regarding vulnerable tenants who may lose their homes following the expiration of the eviction moratorium associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic (B.M.C. Section 13.110).

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<sup>2</sup> BMC Section 13.76.060Q.

The Committee requested that good cause for eviction protections articulated in B.M.C. Section 13.76.130 be extended to tenants in properties that are currently fully exempt from the Ordinance; namely the Accessory Dwelling Unit exemption as defined in B.M.C. Section 13.76.050N. and the “golden duplex” exemption as defined in B.M.C. Sections 13.76.050F. and 13.76.050H. Both of these properties are fully exempt when the property owner principally resides in a unit on the property. The proposal would only add good cause eviction protections pursuant to B.M.C. Section 13.76.130; it would not remove any other exemptions from the Ordinance for these properties.

The 4 x 4 Committee voted on May 3, 2022, to support this proposal. The approved language is set forth in Attachment A, in subsection 13.76.050.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This report and its recommendations are the result of direction from the 4 x 4 Committee, which voted on May 3, 2022 to recommend to the City Council to place the proposed amendments on the ballot for November 8, 2022. The Rent Stabilization Board also voted on March 17, 2020, to support the first three proposals.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

There was some discussion at both the Board and the 4 x 4 Committee of including a clause that makes explicit that California Civil Code Section 1954.52(b) allows Council to attach rent control to units that would otherwise qualify as new construction in the event that projects allowed for certain density bonuses, but this ultimately did not gain sufficient traction and is not a part of the proposed amendments. The Committee discussed at some length that they thought this was already allowed by the current amendments included in B.M.C. 13.76.040R. which make explicit that all new construction is fully covered by the Ordinance in the event that state law does not specifically prohibit it. In any event, the City will need to make more sweeping changes to the Planning/Zoning Ordinances in order to implement these changes should Council wish to do so in the future.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Matt Brown, General Counsel, Rent Stabilization Board, (510) 981-4905

Attachments:

1. Resolution

Exhibit A: Ordinance as Amended

2. May 3, 2022 Staff Report to 4 x 4 Committee

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUBMITTING TO THE BERKELEY ELECTORATE A MEASURE TO AMEND BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.76 TO ALLOW, TO THE EXTENT THAT STATE OR LOCAL LAW PERMITS, FOR THE REGULATION OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, UNITS CREATED PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 330 (HOUSING CRISIS ACT OF 2019); TO ADD EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR RENTAL UNITS IN A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CONSISTING OF TWO UNITS WHERE ONE OF THE UNITS IS OCCUPIED BY A LANDLORD AS THEIR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND WHERE ONE OF THE TWO UNITS WAS OWNER-OCCUPIED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1979 AND EVICTION PROTECTIONS TO TENANTS IN RENTAL UNITS CONTAINING A SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING AND ONE LAWFULLY ESTABLISHED ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT WHERE THE LANDLORD OCCUPIES A UNIT IN THE SAME PROPERTY; TO PROHIBIT EVICTIONS BASED ON THE ADDITION OF OCCUPANTS IF THE LANDLORD HAS UNREASONABLY REFUSED THE TENANT'S REQUEST; AND TO ELIMINATE SECTION 13.76.060 (DECONTROL).

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Berkeley Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance are to regulate residential rent increases in the City of Berkeley and to protect tenants from unwarranted rent increases and arbitrary, discriminatory, or retaliatory evictions, in order to help maintain the diversity of the Berkeley community and to ensure compliance with legal obligations relating to the rental of housing. This legislation is designed to address the City of Berkeley's housing crisis, preserve the public peace, health and safety, and advance the housing policies of the city with regard to low and fixed income persons, minorities, students, handicapped, and the aged; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater protections to tenants in newly constructed units; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board will be able to provide greater eviction protections for tenants in units that previously did not have such protections; and

WHEREAS, eviction protections will be increased for tenant households that add additional occupants if a landlord has unreasonably refused a tenant's written request; and

WHEREAS, Section 13.76.060 (Decontrol) is to be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, these enumerated amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance will prevent displacement of tenants by extending additional

protections and services to tenants who do not enjoy such protections under existing law; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council has elected to submit to the voters at the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election, a measure to amend Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 13.76 to allow for the regulation of newly constructed units if permissible under state or local law; to provide eviction protections under the Ordinance for tenants in properties consisting of two units where one unit is a landlord's principal place of residence and one unit was a landlord's principal place of residence as of December 31, 1979 and eviction protections to tenants residing on a property containing a single family dwelling and a lawfully established Accessory Dwelling Unit where the landlord occupies a unit at the property; to provide eviction protections for tenants that add additional occupants to their household after the landlord has unreasonably refused a written request to do so; and to eliminate Section 13.76.060 (Decontrol) from the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10002 and 10403 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is requested to consolidate the City of Berkeley General Municipal Election with the Statewide General Election to be held November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley hereby requests that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors permit the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County to perform services in connection with said election at the request of the City Clerk. These services to include all necessary services related to official ballot creation, sample ballot and voter information pamphlet preparation, vote-by-mail, polling places, poll workers, voter registration, voting machines, canvass operations, and any and all other services necessary for the conduct of the consolidated election; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to submit this measure to be placed upon the ballot at said consolidated election.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County is hereby requested to include on the ballots and sample ballots the measure enumerated above to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full text of the measure shall be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to all voters in the City of Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above enumerated measure requires a majority vote threshold for passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Berkeley, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to enter into any contracts necessary for election consulting services, temporary employment services, printing services, and any such other supplies and services as may be required by the statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Berkeley for the conduct of the November General Municipal Election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9285 (b), the City Council hereby adopts the provisions of Elections Code Section 9285 (a) providing for the filing of rebuttal arguments for city ballot measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will reimburse the Registrar of Voters for the costs associated with placing the measure on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said proposed Ordinance measure shall appear and be printed upon the ballots to be used at said election as follows:

CITY OF BERKELEY ORDINANCE	
Shall the measure amending the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to: allow, to the extent that state or local permits, for the regulation of newly-constructed units; to provide eviction protections to tenants in certain two-unit properties where such eviction protections previously did not apply; to provide eviction protections to tenants who add additional occupants after the landlord has unreasonably denied such a request; and to eliminate Section 13.76.060 be adopted?	YES
	NO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the text of the measure be shown as Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Exhibits

A: Text of Measure

Exhibit A

ORDINANCE NO. ##,###-N.S.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY AMENDING BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.76 TO ALLOW, TO THE EXTENT THAT STATE OR LOCAL LAW PERMITS, FOR THE REGULATION OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, UNITS CREATED PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 330 (HOUSING CRISIS ACT OF 2019); TO ADD EVICTION PROTECTIONS FOR RENTAL UNITS IN A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CONSISTING OF TWO UNITS WHERE ONE OF THE UNITS IS OCCUPIED BY A LANDLORD AS THEIR PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND WHERE ONE OF THE TWO UNITS WAS OWNER-OCCUPIED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1979 AND EVICTION PROTECTIONS TO TENANTS IN RENTAL UNITS CONTAINING A SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING AND ONE LAWFULLY ESTABLISHED ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT WHERE THE LANDLORD OCCUPIES A UNIT IN THE SAME PROPERTY; TO PROHIBIT EVICTIONS BASED ON THE ADDITION OF OCCUPANTS IF THE LANDLORD HAS UNREASONABLY REFUSED THE TENANT'S REQUEST; AND TO ELIMINATE SECTION 13.76.060 (DECONTROL)

The People of the City of Berkeley do ordain as follows:

Section 1. Section 13.76.040 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**13.76.040 Definitions.**

- A. "Board" refers to the elected Rent Stabilization Board established by this chapter and Article XVII of the Charter of the City of Berkeley.
- B. "Commissioners" means the members of the board who are denominated commissioners.
- C. "Housing services" include but are not limited to repairs, maintenance, painting, providing light, hot and cold water, elevator service, window shades and screens, storage, kitchen, bath and laundry facilities and privileges, janitor services, refuse removal, furnishing, telephone, parking and any other benefit, privilege or facility



connected with the use or occupancy of any rental unit. Services to a rental unit shall include a proportionate part of services provided to common facilities of the building in which the rental unit is contained.

D. "Landlord" means an owner of record, lessor, sublessor or any other person or entity entitled to receive rent for the use or occupancy of any rental unit, or an agent, representative or successor of any of the foregoing.

E. "Rent" means the consideration, including any deposit, bonus, benefit or gratuity demanded or received for or in connection with the use or occupancy of rental units and housing services. Such consideration shall include, but not be limited to, monies and fair market value of goods or services rendered to or for the benefit of the landlord under the rental agreement.

F. "Rental agreement" means an agreement, oral, written or implied, between a landlord and a tenant for use or occupancy of a rental unit and for housing services.

G. "Rental unit" means any unit in any real property, including the land appurtenant thereto, rented or available for rent for residential use or occupancy (including units covered by the Berkeley Live/Work Ordinance No. 5217-NS), located in the City of Berkeley, together with all housing services connected with use or occupancy of such property such as common areas and recreational facilities held out for use by the tenant.

H. "Property" means a parcel of real property which is assessed and taxed as an undivided whole.

I. "Tenant" means any renter, tenant, subtenant, lessee, or sublessee of a rental unit, or successor to a renter's interest, or any group of tenants, subtenants, lessees, or sublessees of any rental unit, or any other person entitled to the use or occupancy of such rental unit.

J. "Skilled nursing facility" means a health facility or a distinct part of a hospital which provides the following basic services: skilled nursing care and supportive care to patients whose primary need is for availability of skilled nursing care on an extended basis. It provides 24-hour inpatient care and, as a minimum, includes medical, nursing,

dietary, pharmaceutical services and an activity program. The facility shall have effective arrangements, confirmed in writing, through which services required by the patients, but not regularly provided within the facility, can be obtained promptly when needed.

K. "Health facility" means any facility, place or building which is organized, maintained and operated for the diagnosis, care and treatment of human illness, physical or mental, including convalescence and rehabilitation and including care during and after pregnancy, or for any one or more of these purposes, for one or more persons, to which such persons are admitted for a 24-hour stay or longer.

L. "Recognized tenant organization" means any group of tenants, residing in rental units in the same building or in different buildings operated by the same management company, agent or landlord, which requests to be so designated.

M. "Rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent which a landlord may charge on any rental unit covered by this chapter.

N. "Base rent ceiling" means the maximum allowable rent established under Section 13.76.100 of this chapter.

O. "Fees" means for the purpose of this chapter, a charge fixed by law for services of public officers or for use of a privilege under control of government.

P. "Nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education" means a post secondary educational institution whose legal status under the California Education Code is verified by an annual validation receipt from the California State Department of Education, and which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or the Association of Theological Schools and which is exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and under Section 23701(d) of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and which, if otherwise required by law to do so, has obtained a valid unrevoked letter or ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service or from the Franchise Tax Board which states that the organization so qualifies for exemption from taxation.

Q. "Newly Constructed" means a rental unit created after June 30, 1980. For purposes of this definition, the date a unit was created is based upon the date of the first certificate of occupancy issued for the subject unit. However, in the event of the repeal or amendment of Civil Code Section 1954.52, such that "certificate of occupancy" is no longer the operative standard set forth under state law, the date a unit was created shall be determined by the final inspection approval by the City.

R. Notwithstanding any other provision in this ordinance, and to the extent that state or local law does not prohibit a local jurisdiction from regulating the rent on a residential rental unit, such units shall not be exempt as "newly constructed units" and, unless otherwise exempt, shall be covered by all provisions of this chapter. This includes, but is not limited to, any residential rental units created as a result of demolition or replacement where such demolition or replacement is affected via the creation of a "housing development project" as defined in the Housing Crisis Act of 2019 (Senate Bill 330).

Section 2: Section 13.76.050 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

### **13.76.050 Applicability**

This chapter shall apply to all real property that is being rented or is available for rent for residential use in whole or in part, except for the following:

A. Rental units which are owned by any government agency. However, the exemption of units owned by the Berkeley Housing Authority from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter.

B. Rental units which are rented primarily to transient guests for use or occupancy less than fourteen consecutive days in establishments such as hotels, motels, inns, tourist homes, and rooming and boarding houses. However, the payment of rent every fourteen days or less shall not by itself exempt any unit from coverage by this chapter.

C. Rental units in nonprofit cooperatives owned and controlled by a majority of the residents.

D. Rental units leased to tenants assisted under the Section 8 program (42 U.S.C. Section 1437f) or the Shelter Plus Care Program (42 U.S.C. 11403 et. seq.) or similar federally funded rent subsidy program. Except as may be preempted by state or federal law, the exemption of such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. However, the exemption from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 shall apply only for so long as the rent demanded does not exceed the authorized Payment Standard, which, for purposes of this subsection, is the maximum monthly rental assistance potentially available to an assisted household before deducting the household share of income paid for rent and utilities as established by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency. For units where the rent demanded exceeds the Payment Standard, the Payment Standard or an initial rent above the Payment Standard if approved by the Berkeley Housing Authority, as reported to the board by the Berkeley Housing Authority or successor agency, shall become the unit's base rent ceiling and the reference point from which the rent ceiling shall be adjusted in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.

E. Rental units in any hospital, skilled nursing facility, health facility, asylum, or non-profit home for the aged.

F. Rental units in a residential property which is divided into a maximum of four units where one of such units is occupied by the landlord as his/her principal residence. Any exemption of rental units established under this subsection (13.76.050 F.) shall be limited to rental units that would have been exempt under the provisions of this chapter had this chapter been in effect on December 31, 1979. After July 1, 1982, this exemption shall no longer apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into three or four units. It shall continue to apply to rental units in a residential property which is divided into two units, and which meet all the other requirements of this subsection (13.76.050F). However, the exemption of such rental units shall be limited to

their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. Rental units which become non-exempt under this provision shall have the provisions of Subsections 13.76.080I and 13.76.100C. applied to them.

G. A rental unit in a residential property where the landlord shares kitchen or bath facilities with the tenant(s) of such rental unit and where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence.

H. For the purposes of Subsections 13.76.050 F. and G., the term landlord shall be defined only as the owner of record holding at least 50% interest in the property.

I. Newly constructed rental units, as defined in Section 13.76.040Q. However, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. To the extent that state law permits, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to the first 20 years after completion of construction.

J. A rental unit which is rented by a nonprofit, accredited institution of higher education to a tenant or tenants who are student(s), faculty, or staff of the institution or of a member school of the Graduate Theological Union, provided, however, that the institution owned the unit as of January 1, 1988.

K. A rental unit in a residential property owned by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is rented to a low income tenant and subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency that controls the unit's rent levels. However, the exemption for such rental units from the terms of this chapter shall be limited to Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration; Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings of this chapter and shall apply only for so long as the regulatory agreement is in effect. This exemption shall not apply to rental units at the

property that are not subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency or that are rented by a tenant who occupied the unit prior to the property's acquisition by the tax-exempt organization.

L. Rental units in a facility owned or leased by an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that has the primary purpose of operating a treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program for qualified clients, where such rental units are provided incident to the client's participation in the primary program and where the client has been informed in writing of the temporary or transitional nature of the housing at the inception of his or her participation in the program. However, except as may be preempted by the Transitional Housing Participant Misconduct Act (California Health and Safety Code Sections 50580 et. seq.) or other state or federal law, such rental units shall not be exempted from the terms of Section 13.76.130, Good Cause Required for Eviction. For purposes of Section 13.76.130.A.2, the client's continued eligibility for participation in the treatment, recovery, therapy, sanctuary or shelter program shall be deemed a material term of the client's rental agreement with the program's operator.

M. A rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority recognized by the University of California Berkeley, or a rental unit or room which is rented by an active member of a fraternity or sorority identified by Rent Board Resolution. To qualify for the exemption, the rental unit must be owned by the fraternity or sorority or by an entity whose sole purpose is the maintenance and operation of the fraternity or sorority's rental units for the benefit of the members in order to provide housing to said members at cost.

N. A rental unit in a residential property containing only a Single Family Dwelling (as defined in Subtitle 23F.04 of the Zoning Ordinance) and one lawfully established and fully permitted Accessory Dwelling Unit where the landlord also occupies a unit in the same property as his/her principal residence. This subsection (13.76.050N) shall only apply to properties containing a single Accessory Dwelling Unit, shall only apply to units compliant with all applicable requirements of Chapter 23C.24 ("Accessory Dwelling Units"), and shall only apply to tenancies created after November 7, 2018. However, the exemption of such rental units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of

Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter.

O. A dwelling or a unit alienable separate from the title to any other dwelling unit unless the tenancy commenced before January 1, 1996. However, the exemption of such units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. A property owner who owns only one residential unit in the City of Berkeley, and occupied that residential unit for 365 consecutive days as their principal residence immediately prior to renting the unit, and is absent from the unit for a period not to exceed 24 months, and such period is specified in the lease, shall also be exempt from the terms of Section 13.76.080, Rent Registration, of this Chapter. The exemptions provided in this Section shall apply only as long as the pertinent provisions of California Civil Code Section 1954.50 et. seq. ("Costa-Hawkins") remain in effect and require such an exemption.

Section 3: Section 13.76.060 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**13.76.060 Rent Stabilization Board**

A. Composition. There shall be in the city of Berkeley an elected rent stabilization board; the board shall consist of nine commissioners. The board shall elect annually as chairperson one of its members to serve in that capacity.

B. Eligibility. Residents who are duly qualified electors of the city of Berkeley are eligible to serve as commissioners on the board.

C. Full disclosure of holdings. Candidates for the position of commissioner shall fulfill the requirements as set forth in the City Charter in Article III, Section 6 1/2.

In addition, when filing nomination papers, candidates shall submit a verified statement of their interests and dealings in real property, including but not limited to its ownership, sale or management and investment in and association with partnerships, corporations, joint ventures and syndicates engaged in its ownership, sale or management during the previous three years.

D. Election of commissioners. Commissioners shall be elected at the statewide general election held in November of even numbered years.

E. Terms of office. Commissioners' terms of office shall be as set forth in Article XVII of the Berkeley City Charter.

F. Powers and duties. The elected rent stabilization board shall have the power to determine, to arbitrate and to set rent levels, whether through general or individual adjustments, of any unit which has controlled rents under any Berkeley Ordinance, and to administer any Berkeley program which regulates rents and evictions. The board shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Set the rent ceilings for all rental units.
2. Require registration of all rental units under Section 13.76.080.
3. Publicize the manner in which the base rent ceiling is established under Section 13.76.100.
4. To make adjustments in the rent ceiling in accordance with Sections 13.76.110 and 13.76.120.
5. Set rents at fair and equitable levels in view of and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter.
6. To issue orders, rules and regulations, conduct hearings and charge fees as set below.
7. Make such studies, surveys and investigations, conduct such hearings, and obtain such information as is necessary to carry out its powers and duties.



8. Report annually to the city council of the city of Berkeley on the status of rental housing units covered by this chapter.
9. Request the City Council to remove rent controls under Section 13.76.060Q.
10. Administer oaths and affirmations and subpoena witnesses and relevant documents.
11. Establish rules and regulations for settling civil claims under Section 13.76.150.
12. Seek injunctive relief under Section 13.76.150.
13. Pursue civil remedies in courts of appropriate jurisdiction.
14. Intervene as an interested party in any litigation brought before a court of appropriate jurisdiction by a landlord or tenant with respect to rental units covered by this chapter.
15. Hold public hearings.
16. Charge and collect registration fees, including penalties for late payments.
17. Other powers necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter which are not inconsistent with the terms of this chapter.
18. Except as provided in Section 13.76.060N of this chapter, the board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses for its operation without the use of general fund monies of the city of Berkeley.

G. Rules and Regulations: The board shall issue and follow such rules and regulations, including those which are contained in this Chapter, as will further the purposes of this Chapter. The board shall publicize its rules and regulations prior to promulgation in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the city of Berkeley.

All rules and regulations and relevant documents explaining the decisions, orders, and policies of the board shall be kept in the board's office and shall be available to the public for inspection and copying.

The board shall publicize this Chapter so that all residents of Berkeley will have the opportunity to become informed about their legal rights and duties under this Chapter. The board shall prepare a brochure which fully describes the legal rights and duties of landlords and tenants under this Chapter. The brochure shall be made available to the public.

H. Meetings: The board shall hold regularly scheduled meetings. Special meetings shall be called at the request of at least a majority of the commissioners of the board. The board shall hold its initial meeting no later than July 15, 1980.

I. Quorum: Five commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the board.

J. Voting: The affirmative vote of five commissioners of the board is required for a decision, including all motions, rules, regulations, and orders of the board.

K. Compensation: The rent stabilization board shall be a working board. Commissioners shall be paid compensation and benefits in an amount set by the board in order to compensate commissioners for their time and work performed as required by this chapter and the city charter.

L. Dockets: The board shall maintain and keep in its office all hearing dockets, which shall be available for public inspection.

M. Vacancies: If a vacancy shall occur on the board, a qualified person to fill such vacancy shall be selected in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article V of the City Charter.

N. Financing: The board shall finance its reasonable and necessary expenses by charging landlords annual registration fees in amounts deemed reasonable by the board. The registration fee for partially-exempt units shall reasonably approximate the cost of registration and counseling services for such units, and shall not include the cost of services from which such units are exempt. Such registration fees shall not be

passed on to tenants in the form of rent increases except with the express prior approval of the board. The board is also empowered to request and receive funding, when and if necessary, from the city of Berkeley and/or any other available source for its reasonable and necessary expenses, including expenses incurred at the request of the City.

O. Staff: The board shall be a working board and shall employ such staff as may be necessary to perform its functions efficiently and as provided by Berkeley Ordinance.

P. Registration: The board shall require the registration of all rental units covered by this chapter as provided for in Section 13.76.080. The board may also require landlords to provide current information supplementing their registration statements.

~~Q.— Decontrol: If the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the city of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six month period, the city council is empowered, upon request by the board, at its discretion and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter, to exempt rental units covered by this chapter from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.100, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 of this chapter. In determining the vacancy rate for the city of Berkeley the board and the city council shall consider all available data and may conduct their own survey. If units are exempted pursuant to this Subsection Q coverage shall be reimposed if the city council finds that the average annual vacancy rate has thereafter fallen below five percent. Prior to any decision to exempt or renew coverage for rental units under this Subsection Q the board shall hold at least two public hearings.~~

~~R.~~ Q. Conflict of Interest: Commissioners shall be subject to the requirements of the California Political Reform Act and other applicable state and local conflict of interest codes. Commissioners shall not necessarily be disqualified from exercising any of their powers and duties on the grounds of a conflict of interest solely on the basis of their status as a landlord or tenant. However, a commissioner shall be disqualified from ruling on a petition for an individual adjustment of a rent ceiling under Section 13.76.120, where the commissioner is either the landlord of the property or a tenant residing in the property that is involved in the petition.

Section 4: Section 13.76.130 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is amended to read as follows

**13.76.130 Good cause required for eviction**

A. No landlord shall be entitled to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter unless said landlord shows the existence of one of the following grounds:

1. The tenant has failed to pay rent to which the landlord is legally entitled pursuant to the lease or rental agreement and under the provisions of state or local law, unless the tenant has withheld rent pursuant to applicable law; and said failure has continued after service on the tenant of a written notice setting forth the amount of rent then due and requiring it to be paid, within a period, specified in the notice, of not less than three days. Rent that is lawfully withheld pursuant to emergency legislation that authorizes rent withholding during the effective period of a state of emergency applicable in Berkeley shall not constitute grounds for recovery of possession except as expressly provided in the applicable emergency legislation. Emergency legislation adopted during the emergency may prohibit recovery of possession for lawfully withheld rent even after the expiration of a state or local emergency.

2. The tenant has continued, after written notice to cease, to substantially violate any of the material terms of the rental agreement, except the obligation to surrender possession on proper notice as required by law, and provided that such terms are reasonable and legal and have been accepted in writing by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement; and provided further that, where such terms have been accepted by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement subsequent to the initial creation of the tenancy, the landlord shall have first notified the tenant in writing that he or she need not accept such terms or agree to their being made part of the rental agreement. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this chapter or in the rental agreement, a landlord is not entitled to recover possession of a

rental unit under this subsection where a tenant permits his or her rental unit to be occupied by a subtenant, provided:

- a. The landlord has unreasonably withheld consent to the subtenancy; and
- b. The tenant remains an actual occupant of the rental unit; and
- c. The number of tenants and subtenants actually occupying the rental unit does not exceed ~~the number of occupants originally allowed by the rental agreement or the board's regulations, whichever is greater~~ the maximum number of occupants legally allowed under Section 503(b)(2) of the Uniform Housing Code as incorporated by California Health & Safety Code Section 17922, except where prohibited by law.
- d. Withholding of consent by the landlord shall be deemed to be unreasonable where:
  - (i) ~~The tenant's written request for consent was given at least two weeks prior to commencement of the subtenancy; tenant has made a written request to the landlord to either sublet the unit and/or add additional occupants, and the landlord has failed to respond in writing within fourteen (14) days of the tenant's request; or~~
  - (ii) The proposed new subtenant has, upon the landlord's written request, completed the landlord's standard form application or provided sufficient information to allow the landlord to conduct a standard background check, including references and credit, income and other reasonable background information, and the proposed new subtenant or additional occupant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and or
  - ~~(iii) The proposed new subtenant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and~~

(iii iv) The landlord has not articulated in writing a well-founded reason for refusing consent. A landlord's reasonable denial may not be based on the proposed occupant's lack of credit worthiness or income if that occupant will not be legally obligated to pay some or all of the rent to the landlord.

e. Where a landlord can establish that the proposed additional occupant presents a direct threat to the health, safety, or security of other residents of the property, the landlord shall have the right to deny the proposed tenant's occupancy.

f. Before initiating an action to recover possession based on the violation of a lawful obligation or covenant of tenancy regarding subletting or limits on the number of occupants in the rental unit, the landlord shall serve the tenant a written notice of the violation that provides the tenant with a minimum of fourteen (14) days to cure the violation. The notice must also inform the tenant(s) of their right to add subtenants and/or add additional occupants pursuant to this section.

3. The tenant has willfully caused or allowed substantial damage to the premises beyond normal wear and tear and has refused, after written notice, to pay the reasonable costs of repairing such damage and cease damaging said premises.
4. The tenant has refused to agree to a new rental agreement upon expiration of a prior rental agreement, but only where the new rental agreement contains provisions that are substantially identical to the prior rental agreement, and is not inconsistent with local, state and federal laws.
5. The tenant has continued, following written notice to cease, to be so disorderly as to destroy the peace and quiet of other tenants or occupants of the premises or the tenant is otherwise subject to eviction pursuant to subdivision 4 of Code of Civil Procedure Section 1161.
6. The tenant has, after written notice to cease, refused the landlord access to the unit as required by state or local law.

7. a. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to undertake substantial repairs which are necessary to bring the property into compliance with applicable codes and laws affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building or where necessary under an outstanding notice of code violations affecting the health and safety of tenants of the building, and where such repairs cannot be completed while the tenant resides on the premises.

b. Where such repairs can be completed in a period of 60 or fewer days, and the tenant, within 30 days after the service of a notice of termination of his or her tenancy, agrees in writing to vacate the premises during the period required to complete the repairs at no charge to the landlord, other than abatement of the obligation to pay rent for the premises during the period required to complete the repairs, the landlord may not recover possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.) unless the tenant shall fail or refuse to vacate the premises in accordance with such agreement.

c. Where the landlord owns any other residential rental units in the City of Berkeley, and any such unit is vacant and available at the time of premises or the entry of a judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, the landlord shall, as a condition of obtaining possession pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), notify tenant in writing of the existence and address of each such vacant rental unit and offer tenant the right, at the tenant's option:

(i) To enter into a rental agreement (to be designated as a "temporary rental agreement") on any available rental unit which the tenant may choose, at a rent not to exceed the lesser of the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit or the lawful rent in effect, at the time of the notice of termination of tenancy, on the unit being vacated, said rental agreement to be for a term of the lesser of ninety days or until completion of repairs on the rental unit being vacated by tenant; or

(ii) To enter into a new rental agreement or lease for such available rental unit at a rent not to exceed the lawful rent which may be charged for such available rental unit.

d. Where the landlord recovers possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.7.), the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon completion of the required work. In the event the landlord files an application for an individual rent adjustment within six months following the completion of the work, the tenant shall be a party to such proceeding the same as if he or she were still in possession, unless the landlord shall submit, with such application, a written waiver by the tenant of his or her right to re-occupy the premises pursuant to this subsection.

8. The landlord, after having obtained all necessary permits from the City of Berkeley, seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit, in order to remove the rental unit from the market by demolition.

9. Owner Move-in Evictions.

a. The landlord seeks in good faith with honest intent and without ulterior motive to recover possession for his/her own use and occupancy as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months; or

b. For the use and occupancy as the principal residence by the landlord's spouse or by the landlord's child, or parent for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.

c. For the purposes of this subsection (13.76.130A.9.), the term landlord shall be defined as the owner of record, as of the time of giving of a notice terminating tenancy, and at all times thereafter to and including the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord, holding at least a



50% interest in the property and shall not include a lessor, sublessor, or agent of the owner of record.

d. All notices terminating tenancy pursuant to subsection 13.76.130.A.9 shall include the following: the existence and potential availability of relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g; the existence of tenant protections for families with minor children as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.k; the name and relationship of any qualified relative for purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9b; and the landlord's ownership interest in any residential properties in the City of Berkeley where such interest, in any form whatsoever, is ten percent (10%) or greater. The landlord shall, within ten days of giving notice, file a copy of the notice terminating tenancy with the Rent Board.

e. The landlord may not recover possession under this subsection (13.76.130A.9.) if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley, was, at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the rental unit, already vacant and available, or if a comparable unit, owned by the landlord in the City of Berkeley, thereafter becomes vacant at any time until the earlier of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or the entry of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction awarding possession of the premises to the landlord. In an action by or against the tenant, evidence that a comparable unit was vacant and available within ninety days prior to the date of a notice terminating the tenant's tenancy shall create a presumption that such unit was vacant and available at the time of the landlord's decision to seek to recover possession of the premises. "Presumption" means that the court must find the existence of the presumed fact unless and until the contrary is proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

f. The landlord shall offer any non-comparable unit owned by the landlord to the tenant if a non-comparable unit becomes available

before the recovery of possession of the tenant's unit at a rate based on the rent the tenant is paying with an upward or downward adjustment based on the condition, size, and other amenities of the replacement unit. Disputes concerning the initial rent for the replacement unit shall be determined by the Rent Board.

g. Where a landlord recovers possession of a unit under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord is required to provide standard relocation assistance to tenant households where at least one occupant has resided in the unit for one year or more in the amount of \$15,000. The landlord is required to provide an additional \$5,000 relocation assistance to tenant households that qualify as low-income; or include disabled or elderly tenants; minor children; or tenancies which began prior to January 1, 1999. The relocation fees set forth above shall be increased in accordance with the rules set forth in subsection 13.76.130A.9.h below. The procedures for payment of this relocation assistance are set forth below in subsection 13.76.130A.9.p.(i) through (iv). The following definitions apply for any tenant households evicted for owner move-in under subsection 13.76.130A.9:

(i) "Low-income tenants" means persons and families whose income does not exceed the qualifying limits for lower income families as established and amended from time to time pursuant to Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, or as otherwise defined in Health and Safety Code Section 50079.5.

(ii) A person is "disabled" if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more of a person's major life activities within the meaning of the California Fair Housing and Employment Act (Government Code § 12926).

(iii) "Elderly" is defined as sixty (60) years of age or older.

(iv) "Minor child" means a person who is under 18 years of age.

(v) "Tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999" is a tenancy where an "original occupant" (as defined by Berkeley Rent Board Regulation) still permanently resides in the rental unit.

h. Effective January 1 of each year beginning in 2018, the fees set forth above in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g., may be increased in an amount based on the Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Region averaged for the 12-month period ending June 30, of each year, as determined and published by United States Department of Labor. Any increase shall be published by the Board on or before October 31st of each year.

i. It shall be evidence that the landlord has acted in bad faith if the landlord or the landlord's qualified relative for whom the tenant was evicted does not move into the rental unit within three months from the date of the tenant's surrender of possession of the premises or occupy said unit as his/her principal residence for a period of at least 36 consecutive months.

j. Once a landlord has successfully recovered possession of a rental unit pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a., then no other current or future landlords may recover possession of any other rental unit on the property pursuant to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a. It is the intention of this subsection that only one specific unit per property may be used for such occupancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a and that once a unit is used for such occupancy, all future occupancies under subsection 13.76.130A.9.a must be of that same unit.

k. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit has a custodial or family relationship with a minor child who is residing in the unit, the tenant with the custodial or family relationship has resided in the unit for 12 months or more, and the effective date of the notice of termination of tenancy falls during the school year. The term "school year" as used in this subsection means the first day of instruction for

the Fall Semester through the first day of the month following the last day of instruction for the Spring Semester, as posted on the Berkeley Unified School District website for each year.

(i) For purposes of subsection 13.76.130A.9.k, the term "custodial relationship" means that the person is a legal guardian of the child, or has a caregiver's authorization affidavit for the child as defined by Section 6550 of the California Family Code, or that the person has provided full-time custodial care of the child pursuant to an agreement with the child's legal guardian or court-recognized caregiver and has been providing that care for at least one year or half of the child's lifetime, whichever is less. The term "family relationship" means that the person is the biological or adoptive parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt or uncle of the child, or the spouse or domestic partner of such relations.

I. A landlord may not recover possession of a unit from a tenant under subsection 13.76.130A.9 if any tenant in the rental unit:

(i) Is 60 years of age or older and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(ii) Is disabled and has been residing on the property for five years or more; or

(iii) Has resided on the property for five years or more and the landlord has a ten percent (10%) or greater ownership interest, in any form whatsoever, in five or more residential rental units in the City of Berkeley.

m. A tenant who claims to be a member of one of the classes protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I must submit a statement, with supporting evidence, to the landlord. A tenant's failure to submit a statement at any point prior to the trial date of an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit shall be deemed an admission that the tenant is not protected by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I. A landlord may challenge a tenant's claim of protected status by raising it as an

issue at trial in an unlawful detainer action for possession of the tenant's unit.

n. The provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.9.I shall not apply to the following situations:

- (i) Where a person is the owner of three or fewer residential units in the City of Berkeley and has no greater than a nine percent (9%) ownership interest in any other residential unit in the City of Berkeley; or
- (ii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I and the landlord's qualified relative who is seeking possession of a unit subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.b is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii) above; or
- (iii) Where each residential rental unit in Berkeley in which the landlord holds an ownership interest of ten percent (10%) or greater is occupied by a tenant otherwise protected from eviction by subsection 13.76.130A.9.I, the landlord has owned the unit for which possession is being sought subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.a for five years or more and is 60 years of age or older or is disabled as defined in subsection 13.76.130A.9.I.(ii).

o. Where a landlord recovers possession under Subsection 13.76.130A.9, the tenant must be given the right of first refusal to re-occupy the unit upon its next vacancy.

p. When a landlord is required to provide a relocation assistance payment subject to subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, the payment shall be divided among the tenants occupying the rental unit at the time of service of the notice to terminate tenancy.

(i) Within ten days of service of a notice terminating tenancy under subsection 13.76.130A.9, the landlord shall deposit the standard relocation assistance (for households where an occupant has resided one year or

more) with the City or its designated agent to be held in escrow. Within ten days after the funds are deposited into escrow, the City shall release the standard relocation assistance to the tenant household, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(ii) In order to claim entitlement to additional relocation assistance under subsection 13.76.130A.9.g, a tenant must notify the landlord and the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she is claiming low-income, disabled, elderly, tenant with minor child status, or a claim that the tenancy began prior to January 1, 1999 (hereinafter "entitlement to additional relocation assistance") per subsection 13.76.130A.9.g within 30 days of filing of notice of termination of tenancy with the Rent Stabilization Program. The landlord shall deposit the additional relocation payment with the Rent Stabilization Program or its designated agent to be held in escrow for any tenant household who claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance within ten days after such notice claiming entitlement to additional relocation assistance is mailed. Within ten days after the funds are deposited into escrow, the Rent Stabilization Program shall authorize release of the relocation assistance to the tenant household that claims entitlement to additional relocation assistance, unless the landlord notifies the Rent Stabilization Program in writing that he/she disputes the tenant's eligibility to receive such assistance.

(iii) When a tenant household's eligibility to receive standard or additional relocation assistance as described in subsection 13.76.130A.9.g is disputed, either party may file a Rent Board petition requesting a determination of eligibility or file a claim in a court of competent jurisdiction. The Rent Stabilization Program shall release disputed relocation assistance funds to either the tenant or the landlord upon receipt of either a written agreement by both the landlord and the affected tenant, an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or an order of a City or Rent Board hearing examiner issued pursuant to a petition process conducted in accordance with applicable Rent Board Regulations.

(iv) The landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy prior to any release of relocation payment to the tenants by serving written notice stating such rescission on the tenants. In such instance, the relocation payment shall be released to the landlord. Subsequent to the release of any relocation payment to the tenants, the landlord may rescind the notice of termination of tenancy only upon the written agreement of the tenants to remain in possession of the rental unit. If the tenants remain in possession of the rental units after service of a landlord's written notice of rescission of the eviction, the tenants shall provide an accounting to the landlord of the amount of the relocation payment expended for moving costs, return to the landlord that portion of the relocation payment not expended for moving costs, and assign to the landlord all rights to recover the amount of relocation payment paid to third parties. If a rescission occurs under this subsection, the tenant(s) shall continue the tenancy on the same terms as before the notice was served.

(v) Where a landlord has served a notice of termination of tenancy on a tenant prior to the date that this amendment takes effect and the notice of termination of tenancy has not expired, the landlord shall deposit the full relocation payment with the City or its designated agent to be held in escrow for the tenants if the tenants have not vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment, and the landlord shall pay the full relocation payment to the tenants if the tenants have vacated the rental unit as of the effective date of this amendment. Said deposit in escrow or payment to the tenants shall be made within ten days of the effective date of this amendment.

(vi) Failure of the landlord to make any payment specified herein shall be a defense to any action to recover possession of a rental unit based upon the landlord's termination of tenancy notice pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9). In addition, if the tenants of a rental unit have vacated the unit as a result of a notice of termination of tenancy pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130.A.9), and the landlord fails to make any payment

specified herein, the landlord shall be liable to the tenants for three times the amount of the payment as well as reasonable attorney fees.

q. A tenant who prevails in an action brought under this subsection (13.76.130A.9), in addition to any damages and/or costs awarded by the court, shall be entitled to recover all reasonable attorney's fees incurred in bringing or defending the action.

r. At least twice annually, Rent Board staff shall report to the Rent Board regarding the occupancy status of units possession of which has been recovered pursuant to this subsection (13.76.130A.9) within the prior 36 months.

s. If any provision or clause of this subsection (13.76.130A.9) or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional or to be otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or clauses, and to this end the provisions and applications of this subsection are severable.

10. A landlord or lessor seeks in good faith to recover possession of the rental unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence, where the landlord or lessor has previously occupied the rental unit as his/her principal residence and has the right to recover possession of the unit for his/her occupancy as a principal residence under an existing rental agreement with the current tenants.

11. The tenant fails to vacate a rental unit occupied under the terms of a temporary rental agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of subsection 13.76.130A.7.c., following expiration of the term of said temporary rental agreement, and following written notice of the availability of tenant's previous rental unit for re-occupancy by tenant (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the completion of repairs on the old rental unit), or of written notice to quit (if the term of the rental agreement has expired by reason of the expiration of a period of 90 days).

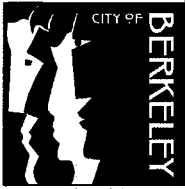


B. A landlord's failure to specify good cause as listed above in subsections 1. through 11. of Section 13.76.130A. in the notice of termination or the notice to quit and in the complaint for possession shall be a defense to any action for possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter.

C. In any action to recover possession of a rental unit covered by the terms of this chapter, except an action to recover possession under subsection 13.76.130A.7., 13.76.130.A.8, or 13.76.130.A.11., a landlord shall allege, as to each rental unit on the property, substantial compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with the implied warranty of habitability and compliance as of the date of the notice of termination or notice to quit and as of the date of the commencement of the action for possession with Sections 13.76.100 (Rent Ceiling) and 13.76.080 (Rent Registration) of this chapter.

D. The landlord shall file with the board a copy of any notice of termination, notice to quit, and summons and complaint, within ten days after the tenant has been served with such notice or summons and complaint.

Section 5. Severability. Should any provision of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unlawful, unenforceable, or otherwise void, that determination shall have no effect on any other provision of this Ordinance or the application of this Ordinance to any other person or circumstance and, to that end, the provisions hereof are severable.



Rent Stabilization Board  
Legal Unit

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 3, 2022

**TO:** Honorable Members of the 4 x 4 Joint Committee on Housing

**FROM:** Honorable Members of the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board  
By: Matt Brown, General Counsel  
Matthew Siegel, Staff Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendments to Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to be Placed on November 2022 Ballot

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### Summary

The Legislation, IRA/AGA & Registration Committee has discussed potential amendments to the Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance to propose to the full Board at each meeting since October 13, 2020. At its March 9, 2022 meeting, the Committee recommended the amendments articulated in this memorandum. The amendments are designed to ensure that the Ordinance better serves its purpose; namely the prevention of arbitrary, discriminatory or retaliatory evictions, in order to maintain the diversity of the Berkeley community and to ensure compliance with legal obligations relating to the rental of housing. In light of both the ongoing housing crisis and the continuing threat to housing stability posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, these proposed amendments enhance the ability of the Board and City Council to preserve the public peace, health and safety, and the availability of housing for low and fixed income households, people of color, students, people with disabilities, and older residents.

At its March 17, 2022 meeting the Board voted to support these amendments and requested that staff forward them to the 4 x 4 Committee for review prior to Council considering these changes. Should they support these proposed amendments, Council will have to place these items on the ballot for the November general election.

The proposed amendments include an amendment to allow for rent control protections to attach to new units that were built as the result of demolition of pre-existing residential structures now allowed by Senate Bill 330 (SB 330); an amendment to expand eviction protections for tenant

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households that exceed the number of occupants allowed at the inception of the tenancy; and an elimination of City Council’s ability to exempt rent control from units when the vacancy rate reaches a certain level. Each proposed amendment is discussed separately below.

**1. Allowance for rent control protections on new units covered by SB 330**

**Background and Need for Rent Stabilization Board Action:**

SB 330 specifically allows cities to impose rent control protections on units that are built as the result of demolition of previously-controlled units. The Housing Crisis Act of 2019 requires all housing projects that demolish existing residential units to create as least as many residential units as are being demolished. Projects that contain "protected units," which include residential units that have been subject to a local rent control program within the previous five years, are required to provide replacement units at an affordable rent (or sales price) with the same number of bedrooms as the demolished unit. The affordability level of a replacement unit is based on the income level of the last household occupying the demolished unit and must be rented (or sold) at a rate that is affordable to occupants of the same income category or lower. If a "protected unit" was last occupied by persons or families above the low-income category, the affected city has the option to require that the housing project provide: 1) a replacement unit affordable to low-income households for a period of at least 55 years, or 2) a replacement unit that complies with the jurisdiction's rent or price control ordinance.

Currently, the law expressly exempts newly constructed units from Chapters 10 (Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting), 11 (Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings) and 12 (Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings) of the Rent Ordinance. These residential units are subject to the registration requirements of Measure MM, are covered by good cause for eviction, and are entitled to annual security deposit interest, but they are not subject to local rent controls. SB 330 would allow for these new units created as the result of demolished units to be fully covered by the rent control provisions of the ordinance should the City choose that option when approving new construction that was the result of demolition of existing qualifying units.

The Legislation, IRA/AGA & Registration Committee has directed staff to draft language that would amend the Rent Ordinance to allow these units to be fully rent-controlled. To that end, we have added a section to Chapter 4 of the ordinance that distinguishes this type of new construction to that described in BMC Section 13.76.040Q. We also proposed specific reference to paragraph Q in Chapter 5 of the ordinance to distinguish it from newly constructed units that remain exempt from local rent controls.

**Proposed Language:**

Chapter 13.76 is amended as follows:

Section 13.76.040

**DEFINITIONS**

R. Notwithstanding any other provision in this ordinance and to the extent that state or local law permits, any residential rental units created as a result of demolition or replacement where such demolition or replacement is affected via the creation of a “housing development project” as

defined in the Housing Crisis Act of 2019 (Senate Bill 330), shall not be exempt as “newly constructed units” and, unless otherwise exempt, shall be covered by all provisions of this chapter.

Section 13.76.050

## APPLICABILITY

I. Newly constructed rental units, as defined in Section 13.76.040Q. However, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to their exemption from the terms of Section 13.76.100, Establishment of Base Rent Ceiling and Posting; Section 13.76.110, Annual General Adjustment of Rent Ceilings; and Section 13.76.120, Individual Adjustments of Rent Ceilings, of this chapter. To the extent that state law permits, the exemption of such newly constructed units shall be limited to the first 20 years after completion of construction.

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### 2. Allow for increased occupancy of rental units without threat of eviction

#### **Background and Need for Rent Stabilization Board Action:**

The Board also recommended that the Ordinance be amended to prohibit evictions based on the addition of occupants if the landlord has unreasonably refused the tenant’s written request, including a refusal based on the number of occupants allowed by the rental agreement or lease. The Legislation, IRA/AGA & Registration Committee also expressed strong interest in adopting changes to Regulation 1270 to be more permissive in allowing an increase in the number of tenants occupying a unit without a corresponding rent increase should such amendments to the eviction protections be adopted by the voters.

Tenants’ ability to add additional occupants to their household can be a precarious proposition given that a good cause for eviction lies when a tenant household substantially violates a material term of the rental agreement. While tenants are currently protected from eviction when there is one-for-one replacement of tenants, the Ordinance specifically provides a ground for eviction when any subletting by the tenant household results in an increase above the base occupancy level (B.M.C. 13.76.130A.2.(c)). For this reason, the Board recommended amendments be made to the Ordinance prior to the adoption or amendment of any regulations that intend to expand a tenant’s right to increase the size of their household.

The Board already has express authority to regulate the manner and grounds for which rents may be increased or decreased,<sup>1</sup> but the grounds for eviction are hard-coded in the Ordinance (B.M.C. 13.76.130.). One such basis for eviction is when the “...tenant has continued...to substantially violate any of the material terms of the rental agreement...”(B.M.C. 13.76.130A.2.). Thus, while Board Regulation 1270 can be amended to allow for an increase in the base occupancy level of a unit without a corresponding rent increase, the regulation cannot override the good cause for eviction based on a lease violation, such as when a household has more occupants than those

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<sup>1</sup> See B.M.C. Section 13.76.120C.

allowed pursuant to the initial agreement between the landlord and tenant.

The Board elected to put the proposed changes to the good cause for eviction section of the ordinance before the voters to protect tenants from displacement prior to adopting amendments to the ordinance that would disallow rent increases for increases in occupancy.

**Proposed Language:**

Section 13.76.130

**GOOD CAUSE REQUIRED FOR EVICTION**

2. The tenant has continued, after written notice to cease, to substantially violate any of the material terms of the rental agreement, except the obligation to surrender possession on proper notice as required by law, and provided that such terms are reasonable and legal and have been accepted in writing by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement; and provided further that, where such terms have been accepted by the tenant or made part of the rental agreement subsequent to the initial creation of the tenancy, the landlord shall have first notified the tenant in writing that he or she need not accept such terms or agree to their being made part of the rental agreement. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this chapter or in the rental agreement, a landlord is not entitled to recover possession of a rental unit under this subsection where a tenant permits his or her rental unit to be occupied by a subtenant, provided:

- a. The landlord has unreasonably withheld consent to the subtenancy; and
- b. The tenant remains an actual occupant of the rental unit; and
- c. The number of tenants and subtenants actually occupying the rental unit does not exceed ~~the number of occupants originally allowed by the rental agreement or the board's regulations, whichever is greater~~ the maximum number of occupants legally allowed under Section 503(b)(2) of the Uniform Housing Code as incorporated by California Health & Safety Code Section 17922, except where prohibited by law.
- d. Withholding of consent by the landlord shall be deemed to be unreasonable where:
  - (i) ~~The tenant's written request for consent was given at least two weeks prior to commencement of the subtenancy~~ tenant has made a written request to the landlord to either sublet the unit and/or add additional occupants, and the landlord has failed to respond in writing within fourteen (14) days of the tenant's request;  
or

(ii) The proposed new subtenant has, upon the landlord's written request, completed the landlord's standard form application or provided sufficient information to allow the landlord to conduct a standard background check, including references and credit, income and other reasonable background information, and the proposed new subtenant or additional occupant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and or

~~(iii) The proposed new subtenant meets the landlord's customary occupancy qualifications and has not refused the landlord's request to be bound by the terms of the current rental agreement between the landlord and the tenant; and~~

(iv) The landlord has not articulated in writing a well-founded reason for refusing consent. A landlord's reasonable denial may not be based on the proposed occupant's lack of credit worthiness or income if that occupant will not be legally obligated to pay some or all of the rent to the landlord.

e. Where a landlord can establish that the proposed additional occupant presents a direct threat to the health, safety, or security of other residents of the property, the landlord shall have the right to deny the proposed tenant's occupancy.

f. Before initiating an action to recover possession based on the violation of a lawful obligation or covenant of tenancy regarding subletting or limits on the number of occupants in the rental unit, the landlord shall serve the tenant a written notice of the violation that provides the tenant with a minimum of fourteen (14) days to cure the violation. The notice must also inform the tenant(s) of their right to add subtenants and/or add additional occupants pursuant to this section.

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### **3. Eliminating "Decontrol" clause from ordinance**

#### **Background and Need for Rent Stabilization Action:**

The Rent Ordinance has a section that allows the Berkeley City Council to exempt units from rent control should vacancy rates reach 5% over a six-month period.<sup>2</sup> While Council has the discretion to eliminate rent controls for units (it is not mandatory), this clause is inconsistent with

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<sup>2</sup> BMC Section 13.76.060Q.

the Charter and most all of the Rent Ordinance which establishes the Board's independent authority to regulate rents and administer the law independent of any other elected or appointed body. Moreover, given that both the Charter and Rent Ordinance are voter-adopted initiatives, it certainly makes more sense to put the issue of decontrol before the voters in the event that the community decides to eliminate local rent control. Council has no other authority to interfere either substantively or procedurally in the Board's administration, so removing this clause will be consistent with the overall operation of the rent program and the law the Board and staff administer.

The proposal would be to simply eliminate this section of the Rent Ordinance.

**Proposed Language:**

Section 13.76.060

**RENT STABILIZATION BOARD**

~~Q. Decontrol: If the annual average vacancy rate for all rental units in the city of Berkeley exceeds five percent over a six month period, the city council is empowered, upon request by the board, at its discretion and in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter, to exempt rental units covered by this chapter from Sections 13.76.080, 13.76.100, 13.76.110 and 13.76.120 of this chapter. In determining the vacancy rate for the city of Berkeley the board and the city council shall consider all available data and may conduct their own survey. If units are exempted pursuant to this Subsection Q coverage shall be reimposed if the city council finds that the average annual vacancy rate has thereafter fallen below five percent. Prior to any decision to exempt or renew coverage for rental units under this Subsection Q the board shall hold at least two public hearings.~~

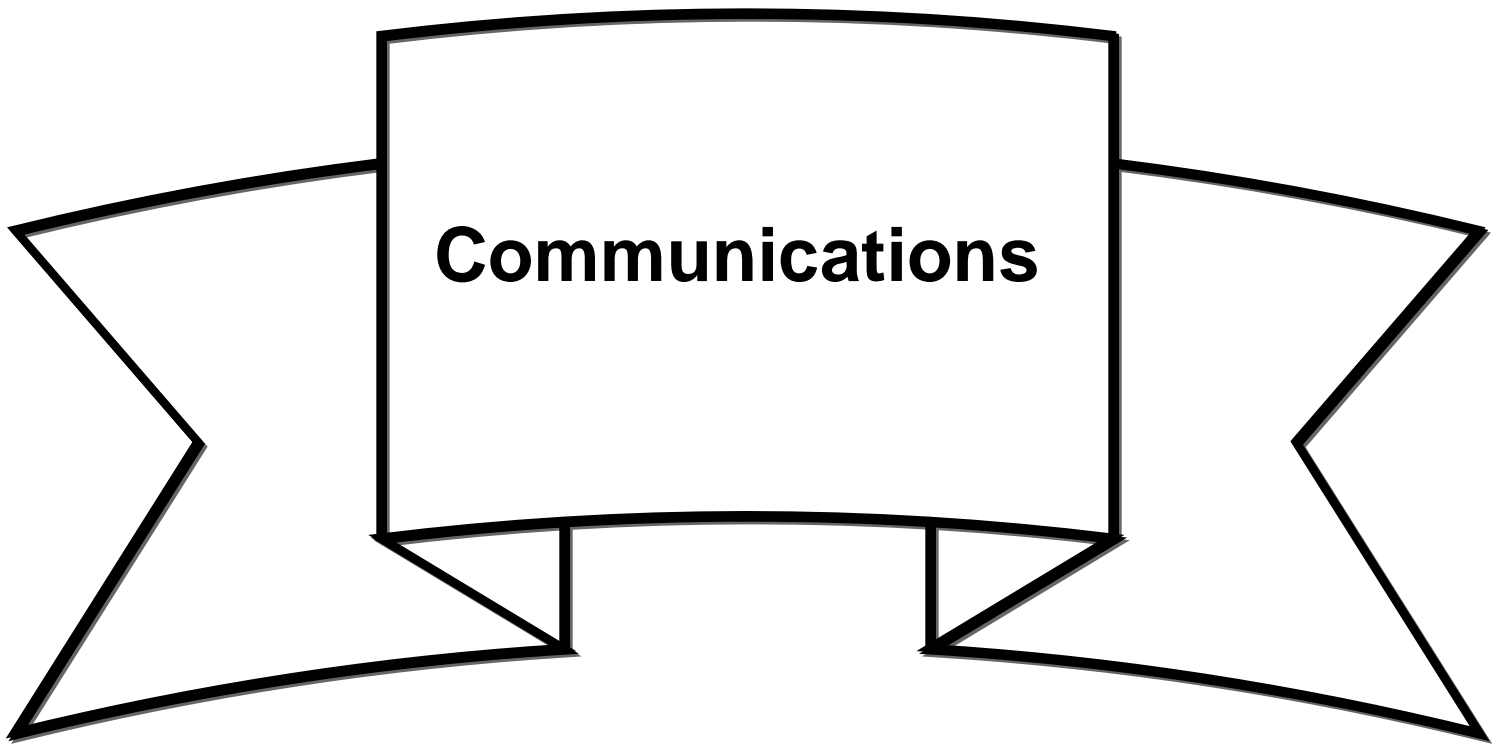
**CONCLUSION**

The Board unanimously proposed that the 4 x 4 Committee review these amendments and request that they be forwarded to Council for further consideration at a later date. After the 4 x 4 Committee discusses them and decides what it wishes to propose, the City Council will have to vote to place the matters it supports on the ballot for the November general election.

These are the initial matters the Board has discussed, but this memo is not meant to be an exhaustive list of items the Board wishes to have Council consider placing on the November ballot. The Legislation, IRA/AGA & Registration Committee has informed legal staff that there may be other items they will request that the Board and Council support. Time is of the essence as Council will have to place these matters on an agenda soon in order to meet any ballot measure deadlines. Staff awaits this Committee's instruction on how it wishes to proceed.







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