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Mayor Liccardo Releases Plan to Protect San Joseans from Eviction During Federal Shutdown

Proposal follows Mayor's plan to offer interest-free loans to staff at San Jose Airport working without pay.

San Jose, Calif. – On the heels of his plan to help federal employees at the San Jose International Airport who continue to work without pay, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo has proposed an urgency ordinance that establishes a 90-day moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent for tenants affected by the Trump-forced federal government shutdown.

“We have a responsibility to protect our residents and ensure those who rely on the federal government to pay their salaries and rent can remain in their homes,” said Mayor Sam Liccardo. “While we’re working to address the most expensive regional housing market in the nation, we won’t allow dysfunction in Washington to put families out on the street.”

If approved, the ordinance would temporarily prohibit landlords from evicting a tenant if they receive federal housing aid voucher, for instance Section 8 including Veteran’s Administration Supportive Housing vouchers (VASH), or is an employee of a federal agency or contractor who is unpaid as a direct result of the shutdown. The moratorium would expire 90 days from adoption of the ordinance, or 30 days after the end of the federal shutdown.

Under the Mayor’s proposal, the City Council would also direct City staff to explore providing relief to landlords impacted by nonpaying tenants by deferring fees and taxes, such as occupancy fees, business license taxes, and apartment rent ordinance fees. City staff would return to Council in approximately three weeks – should the shutdown continue – for Council consideration of such deferrals.

[Read the Mayor’s memorandum describing his proposal in more detail.](#)

The City Council will also consider final approval of an interest-free loan program for federal employees at Mineta San José International Airport, [as proposed by Mayor Liccardo last week.](#) Under the provisions of this program, the City will issue short-term loans to federal airport employees who are working unpaid during the shutdown.

Mayor Liccardo has called a special City Council meeting for Thursday, January 24 at 3 p.m. to consider approving the Mayor’s new urgency ordinance proposal, and his no-interest loan program.

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