Dear Supervisors,

I thank the Board for taking action to assist renters in the current crisis, both by the current (and hopefully renewed) eviction moratorium as well as increased financial assistance to our homelessness and housing-insecurity programs.

However, there are limitations to the current programs. The financial assistance package has been drained quickly. And with food pantries and unemployment claims getting unprecedented usage and the slowdown of our economy, there are signs of an incoming wave of unpaid rent payments coming soon, with our preexisting housing crisis throwing complications. With this background, I would like the Board to consider the Rent Suspension letter submitted previously to the San Jose City Council by the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, Public Counsel, and the Public Interest Law Project. Our times demand us to consider all options, and it is imperative in our community to maintain the safety of our fellow neighbors, especially when the alternative is to drive them out to an uncertain environment. I understand that there may be some landlords that have extremely low margins, but in general property owners have already been given benefits (e.g. on taxes, mortgage relief) that renters haven’t seen on a mass scale; our burdens must not be isolated to the already vulnerable.

The County must step in now, lest we see greater instability in our region like the rent strikes found across the nation. Doing so at the County-level prevents the fragmentation and delay if done at the city level, and can be more flexible than statewide action. And federal actions, like the proposed HR 6515 (Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act), do indicate the importance of the issue and the kinds of actions that are getting greater approval.

Sincerely,
Kevin
Dear President Chavez and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for all your leadership on behalf of our community during this COVID-19 epidemic. I'm proud to be a resident of Santa Clara County.

I'm writing to asked your support for continuing the Eviction Moratorium. I know that you care deeply about all the renters in our County who struggle to pay their rent even in the best of times and you know renters need your continued advocacy during these days of extreme financial hardship.

Please use your 'urgency powers' and extend the eviction moratorium to August 21st.

Thank you.

Mary Helen Doherty
District 2 Resident
Please vote for rent forgiveness. I know that mortgage forgiveness was part of the initial stimulus package for mortgage holders, and the lack of income of so many of us (yes, I am unemployed now because of the lockdown) has added so much stress and anxiety that many of us will come sick without relief. I can understand that if I were to quit a job, or even be fired for a legitimate reason, that I should bear the burden of rent. But when government, even at a local level such as San Jose or Santa Clara county, shuts down our place of employment then wither we should be compensated for our income loss or we should have our debts forgiven until our income returns. It is unconscionable to force us to stay home and yet still pay for rent; housing is essential to life and is not "just" for profit.

Please do the right, moral step of forgiving both mortgages and rents. I know you have the power to do that, especially since you used your power to force us into poverty over a virus.

D

What we do out of love will always be greater than what we do for money. Please do something priceless today.