

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2020-049

Urging the United States Congress to Extend the Emergency Rental Assistance Program for citizens impacted by COVID-19 and Requesting the Richland County and Lexington County Magistrate Courts to Stay all Evictions of Tenants within the corporate limits of the City of Columbia Financially Impacted by the Emergency Situation Caused by SARS-CoV-2 (the Coronavirus)

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WHEREAS, to prevent a housing crisis the 2020 Coronavirus Relief Law (CARES Act) provided financial assistance and a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures to protect renters and property owners with mortgage loans; and,

WHEREAS, the moratorium ends on August 24, 2020 and as of this date the United States Congress has not proposed an extension to the moratorium; and,

WHEREAS, Covid-19 continues to aggressively spread across the state and continues to financially impact residents and businesses resulting in layoffs, cutback and business closures which puts our residents at risk of foreclosure and eviction from their homes; and,

WHEREAS, this Council believes that evicting residents during this worldwide pandemic event and emergency situation, would be contrary to the health safety and welfare of the community citizens because those who are evicted are impoverished: and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia, South Carolina ("Council") believe that the United States Congress should extend an emergency rental assistance program for those who are impacted by the continued worldwide pandemic event and the emergency financial situation caused by COVID-19 as residents are faced with financial hardship and struggle to cover housing expenses and face the potential risk of foreclosure or eviction; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council this 4th day of August, 2020, that the City Council of the City of Columbia hereby urges the United States Congress to create an emergency rental assistance program for those who are impacted and provide proof of financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and struggle to cover housing expenses and risk eviction; and.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council that the City Council of the City of Columbia hereby urges the Richland County and Lexington County Magistrate Courts to stay all evictions of tenants financially impacted by the emergency situation caused by SARS-CoV-2 (the Coronavirus) that causes the disease COVID-19.

Requested by:

Mayor Benjamin _____



Mayor

Approved by:




City Manager

Approved as to form:

Teresa A. Knox

City Attorney

ATTEST:



City Clerk

Introduced: 8/4/2020
Final Reading: 8/4/2020