



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2068
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 939 (Wiener) Emergencies: COVID-19: Evictions

Dear Senators Wiener and Gonzalez:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write to support Senate Bill 939 (Wiener). This bill proposes a statewide eviction moratorium for commercial real property tenants for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency. During this period, it is imperative not only to minimize the spread of infection through social distancing, but also to establish protections for commercial tenants faced with uncertainties and declining revenues. SB 939 aligns with the City's efforts to provide economic relief to businesses and non-profit organizations following State and local emergency declarations on March 4, 2020.

In an effort to protect public health and mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Long Beach City Council voted unanimously in favor of devising a COVID-19 Economic Relief package on March 17, which includes a moratorium on commercial and residential evictions. Tenants who are unable to pay rent between March 4 and May 31, due to COVID-19, will have until November 30 to pay all deferred rent. Despite sustained government efforts, COVID-19 remains a threat to the economy, and many residential and commercial tenants have experienced, or will experience, income loss resulting from COVID-19. By establishing an eviction moratorium for commercial tenants statewide, SB 939 compliments the City's efforts to provide temporary relief for tenants impacted by COVID-19.

The City supports building a supportive economic ecosystem that creates reliable pathways for entrepreneurs to confidently grow successful businesses. Economic relief provisions are imperative to foster stability, particularly during times of uncertainty, and SB 939 will help prevent commercial tenants from being evicted during the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 939 (Wiener).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District