

From the Office of

ODETTE RAMOS

Councilwoman District 14



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100 N. Holliday Street, Room 506, Baltimore MD 21202

July 13, 2021

Testimony

21-0036R – Avoiding an Eviction Crisis

Madame Chair Middleton and Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee:

I am writing regarding resolution 21-0036R – Avoiding and Eviction Crisis. The hearing today will enable us to understand what renters are going through, what actions Baltimore City has taken, and what more must be done.

This Council recently passed 21-0031 to ensure that when leases are up, the tenant cannot be evicted until 180 days after the State of Emergency has ended. While this was significant action, our hearing on this resolution will let us know if more should be done.

There are over 3000 eviction cases pending in Baltimore. Landlords were also able to evict once they received Rental Assistance until recently. The eviction moratorium ended, and courts are re-opening. Many residents are still unable to work or are just trying to catch up from being laid off during the crisis. We heard of illegal evictions where landlords simply changed the locks. Hearing the stories of our renters is important as we understand how else we are able to help.

There is no doubt that landlords have also been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Some renters didn't pay the rent, although they were perfectly able to. We will hear from landlords as well during this hearing.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am looking forward to this hearing.

Amendments are submitted to remove the advocacy organizations from the resolution. I look forward to your favorable vote.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Odette'.

Odette Ramos
Baltimore City Councilwoman District 14