



PRESS RELEASE March 25, 2020

News Media Contact:

Gina DePinto, APR; (805) 568-3428; gdepinto@countyofsb.org

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPT URGENCY ORDINANCE TO PREVENT EVICTIONS AND SUPPORT MORATORIUMS AGAINST FORECLOSURES

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – Yesterday, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a moratorium on evictions of residential tenants who live in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County during this local emergency period due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The unanimous vote by the Board of Supervisors in support of the Eviction Moratorium sends a strong message to the community that we are all in this together,” said Gregg Hart, Chair of the Board. “This is a benefit to not only residents, but also to businesses struggling during this difficult time. Banning evictions is an extraordinary act to match the unparalleled nature of this pandemic.”

This Urgency Ordinance prohibits and suspends evictions arising from loss of income or substantial medical expenses related to COVID-19, Coronavirus pandemic, until May 31, 2020 or until the Santa Barbara County local health emergency proclamation is terminated, whichever is earlier. This Urgency Ordinance does not relieve a tenant’s obligations to pay rent or restrict a landlord’s ability to recover rent due in the future.

“People who can pay rent should pay rent, but we cannot allow people to get evicted at a time when it will spread the sickness and endanger us all,” said First District Supervisor Das Williams.

Federal, state and local assistance programs are available to small business owners, employers, employees and residents. The County is organizing the information that will be hosted on a website launching later this week to help our community recover from economic and emotional impacts associated with the pandemic.

Information specific to the public health emergency can be accessed by phone and online at:

- County Public Health (PHD): www.PublicHealthSBC.org
- PHD [Twitter](#), PHD [Facebook](#)
- County [Twitter](#), County [Facebook](#)
- County Call Center: (833) 688-5551, 9a.m.- 6p.m.
- 2-1-1 Call Center: Dial 211 or outside the (805) area code, call toll free to (800) 400-1572
- PHD Recorded Information Line: (805) 681-4373
- Behavioral Wellness 24/7 Access Line: (888) 868-1649

