[Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 2050 (Lee) - Ellis Act Reform]

Resolution urging support of the passage of California State Assembly Bill No. 2050 introduced by Assembly Members Alex Lee and Wendy Carrillo, principally co-authored by Assembly Member Ash Kalra, and co-authored by Assembly Members Richard Bloom, Mia Bonta, Adrin Nazarian, Phil Ting, as well as Senators Ben Allen and Henry Stern, which aims to curb property speculators who misuse the Ellis Act to evict tenants until after five continuous years of property ownership.

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco (the "City"), along with many other cities in the state of California, have struggled to provide affordable rental units for their workforce and families; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2019 Census Bureau survey estimates, approximately two-thirds of San Francisco housing units were occupied by renters; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has approximately 170,000 units of rent-controlled housing units making it the largest source of affordable rents in the city; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco General Plan's current Housing Element includes Objective 3 to "protect the affordability of the existing housing stock, especially rental units;" and

WHEREAS, The Ellis Act has adversely affected the city's supply of rental housing, especially rent-controlled housing, by converting rental units to ownership units; and

WHEREAS, Between 2010 to 2021, Ellis Act eviction notices ranged from 54 to 231 per year; and

WHEREAS, The Ellis Act allows property owners to evict tenants in order for landlords to transition out of the rental business; and

Supervisors Melgar; Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Mandelman, Walton, Safai
WHEREAS, A 2014 report from Tenants Together, a statewide organization for renters’ rights, found that 51% of the City’s evictions begin within the first year of new ownership and 78% start within the first five years of new ownership; and

WHEREAS, The report found that 30% of all Ellis Act evictions come from investors who have entered and exited the rental business more than once, rather than going out of the landlord business altogether as designed; and

WHEREAS, The Ellis Act creates no new housing and only increases property values through speculative change of use; and

WHEREAS, Ellis Act evictions typically target long-term tenants so disproportionately impact the city’s most vulnerable residents including seniors, disabled and those living with HIV; and

WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 2050 aims to curb property speculators by prohibiting the use of the Ellis Act to evict tenants until the property has been owned by all owners of record for at least 5 continuous years, and

WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 2050 acknowledges that part of the Ellis Act was implemented to support long-time “mom and pop” landlords who might not be able to sustain a rental property to transition out of the business; and

WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 2050 does contain some exemptions for those who may be considered small “mom and pop” landlords; and

WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 2050 aims to preserve existing affordable housing units by curbing speculator evictions under the Ellis Act and respecting the rights of small scale landlords; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors shall support California State Assembly Bill No. 2050 and join Assembly Members Lee, Carrillo, Kalra, Bloom, Mia Bonta, Nazarian, Ting and Senators Allen and Stern and others to support the passage of this bill; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco distribute this Resolution to San Francisco’s State Legislative Delegation and to California Governor Gavin Newsom.
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May 03, 2022 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 220463

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/3/2022 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

5/13/2022
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

5/13/2022
Date