



Deborah Kafoury
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June 4, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

On March 17, 2020, I issued a residential eviction moratorium, by Executive Order 388. Two days later, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners approved Ordinance 1282, which codified that order.

The intent of the moratorium was two-fold: 1) to ensure that people could stay home and slow the spread of the novel coronavirus in our community; 2) to make sure, to the extent that we can, that nobody loses their housing due to COVID-19.

When Governor Brown issued a state-wide eviction moratorium on April 1, 2020, by Executive Order 201-13, it was no longer necessary for Multnomah County to continue with its own regulatory framework, and so the Board of County Commissioners voted to suspend enforcement of the County's moratorium by Ordinance 1284. We did, however, keep a key provision: the six-month repayment grace period to promote housing stability, and to avoid a preventable increase in homelessness due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

As our community begins to work towards reopening, we have received concerns and questions from tenants and advocates confused about the grace period. So I'd like to be clear about our intent.

The repayment grace period is entirely designed to allow tenants time to pay back rent from during the moratorium period. It is also important to note that the County's ordinance does not require a payment plan. This means that tenants will be able to pay the rent they owe how and when they can during those six months.

To be even clearer, it is the County's expectation that upon lifting the eviction moratorium, rent payments for the six prospective months thereafter will not be retroactively applied to rent owed from the moratorium. Rather, the tenant will fulfill their ongoing commitment to pay future rent, while having the six months to pay the amount owed from during the emergency.

The justification for the moratorium and the grace period should be self-evident. The economic impact of COVID-19 has yet to be quantified, and it will take a long time to even begin that analysis. In the meantime, it is our responsibility at Multnomah County to protect our most vulnerable residents from the virus and the concomitant economic fallout.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Kafoury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Chair