March 23, 2020

VIA EMAIL (bos@marincounty.org)

The Honorable Supervisors Damon Connolly, Katie Rice, Kate Sears, Dennis Rodoni, and Judy Arnold
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: March 23, 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting - Agenda Item No. 6

Dear Supervisors Connolly, Rice, Sears, Rodoni, and Arnold:

As you know, Legal Aid of Marin is a non-profit legal services provider for the most vulnerable residents of our county. We write to urge you to pass the eviction moratorium on your agenda for March 24, 2020, and to strengthen its provisions that protect tenants in Marin.

Our organization is deeply concerned for community members unable to work during this crisis, either because their workplaces have closed, their jobs don’t exist anymore, or because they must stay home to care for loved ones, including children whose schools have closed.

We have been inundated with calls from tenants across the county who have lost their jobs, their small businesses, or have received notice from their landlord that they must get out by the end of this month. One senior was terrified that she would become homeless and have to expose herself to COVID-19 infection. Her landlord said she must be out of her home as soon as possible, but she had nowhere to go and was scared to leave her home to search for alternate housing.

We commend you for acting quickly in drafting this temporary moratorium on evictions so tenants like the senior above can be protected. We urge you to adopt the measure, and to further protect tenants by extending the grace period for rent repayment to 180 days, and barring landlords from charging late fees during this period.

It is not realistic to expect those who have lost income or lost their job entirely, will be able to put together enough funds to pay their back rent by the end of May, as they are required to under the current language of the
eviction moratorium.

Thank you for your swift action in protecting the most vulnerable members of our community.

Sincerely yours,

Stephanie Haffner
Executive Director

Asya Sorokurs
Staff Attorney