



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

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Dr. Robert Redfield
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Redfield,

I write today to urge an extension and strengthening of the CDC's eviction moratorium in order to help contain the current surge of coronavirus cases. You have rightfully warned that the next few months could be "the most difficult in the public health history of this nation." If the moratorium is allowed to expire, the current situation could become untenable, with many Americans pushed out on the streets and result in hospitals becoming overwhelmed.

A recent study by the University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, San Francisco, Johns Hopkins University, Boston University and Wake Forest University School of Law found that "evictions may accelerate COVID-19 transmission by increasing household crowding and decreasing individuals' ability to comply with social distancing directives."

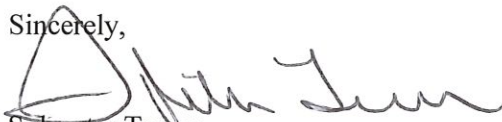
- The study found that as many as 433,700 excess cases of COVID and 10,700 additional deaths were caused by states lifting their eviction moratoriums between March and September, raising concerns about what will happen when the CDC ban lapses at the end of December.

The researchers concluded that "lifting eviction moratoriums was associated with increased COVID-19 incidence and mortality, supporting the public health rationale for use of eviction moratoriums to prevent the spread of COVID-19."

The CARES Act passed by Congress passed in March included a prohibition on evictions from federally-financed properties, including those backed by government-sponsored mortgage entities. However that policy covered just 25 percent of rental units and expired in July.

Come January, hundreds of thousands of Americans could literally be left out in the cold. The looming public health crisis could metastasize into an even greater calamity without further action and consistent enforcement. I implore you to extend the current moratorium and work with the Department of Justice to achieve strong and consistent enforcement.

Sincerely,



Sylvester Turner
Mayor