

Media Advisory for 5:30pm, November 29th, 2016

Contact: Beth Trimarco, 510-760-4202

Concord Full City Council to Consider Rent Moratorium Proposal Community to hold rally on the need for “Homes for the Holidays”

Concord, CA – The full Concord City Council will hear testimony and consider proposals regarding a rent moratorium as well as a tenant hotline and mediation board on November 29th. Roughly 50 community members will gather before the meeting and hold a “Home for the Holidays” rally on the need to keep people in their homes especially this holiday season.

Last month, after an exhaustive nine-month process of studying the housing crisis, the Council’s Housing and Economic Development Committee agreed to send a rent moratorium policy to full Council for discussion on November 29th. It includes a 45-day rent moratorium to cap increases at 3%, with a possibility for 2-year extension. Community members applauded this recommendation as fair to both tenants and landlords.

“Many landlords do right by their tenants and a rent increase cap of 3% will not affect them,” said Nati Flores, Resident Engagement Coordinator at Monument Impact. “But some do not, and it’s those tenants who need protection from triple digit rent increases and unjust evictions, especially this holiday season.”

What: “Home for the Holidays” rally/Concord City Council meeting on rent moratorium

Date: Tuesday, November 29th

Time: 5pm rally, 5:30pm City Council meeting, speakers available at 4:45pm

Where: City Council Chamber, 1950 Parkside Drive, Concord, 94519

***Spanish speakers available**

The Council will also take up proposals for a hotline and a non-binding mediation board, two suggestions that do very little to address the immediate crisis. Neither proposal offers any protection to renters, and each puts the onus on tenants to fight back against unjust increases and evictions rather than putting the onus on landlords to get approval before taking such actions.

“I’m a single mom taking care of an 11-year old and my 79-year old father. This year, my landlord increased our rent by \$155 on top of the regular yearly increase. There was no reason except that he can do whatever he likes,” said Jima Monson, 16-year Concord resident. “Now, 2/3 of my salary goes towards rent, and the rest barely feeds us. I fear that if rents continue to increase at this rate, we will be homeless.

###

“Raise the Roof” is coalition including the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, California Nurses Association, the Contra Costa Labor Council, Central County Regional Group, sponsored by First 5 Contra Costa, The East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, East Bay Housing Organizations, The Ensuring Opportunity Campaign, The Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy, Monument Impact, Multi-Faith Action Coalition, SEIU Local 1021, Tenants Together, and UNITE-HERE 2850.