



March 26, 2020

Questions and Answers Report



Mayor Steve Adler

Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza, District 2

Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison, District 1

Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria, District 3

Council Member Gregorio Casar, District 4

Council Member Ann Kitchen, District 5

Council Member Jimmy Flannigan, District 6

Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7

Council Member Paige Ellis, District 8

Council Member Kathie Tovo, District 9

Council Member Alison Alter, District 10

The City Council Questions and Answers Report was derived from a need to provide City Council Members an opportunity to solicit clarifying information from City Departments as it relates to requests for council action. After a City Council Regular Meeting agenda has been published, Council Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of departments via the City Manager's Agenda Office. This process continues until 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the Council meeting. The final report is distributed at noon to City Council the Wednesday before the council meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Item #90: Approve an ordinance requiring landlords to provide a notice of proposed eviction that gives tenants a 60-day opportunity to respond before giving a notice to vacate, creating an offense and penalty, and declaring an emergency.

COUNCIL MEMBER ELLIS' OFFICE

1. *What steps would the City take to make sure every landlord in Austin is aware of the new requirement to provide a 60-day notice of proposed eviction?*

(Response from Council Member Casar's Office) We will work with city staff to post information on the COVID website and share it through other forms of communication for landlords and tenants. We will reach out to the JP courts and County Courts at Law to provide them with the ordinance as well.

2. *What steps can the City take to support individual landlords affected by this ordinance, such as seeking comparable relief for mortgage payment collection during the local disaster declaration?*

The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering [loans for disaster relief](#) in direct response to COVID-19. The loans are available for small residential landlords and landlords with multi-family units. Landlords with commercial loans should contact their banks directly, as there could be additional resources from the federal government once a stimulus package is approved. At this time the City of Austin does not have additional mechanisms to support individual landlords.

3. *What steps can the City take to support individual landlords who are not necessarily impacted by this ordinance but would like to waive rent for their tenants during the local disaster declaration?*

Staff continues to work on this response.