

## Rent/Evictions COVID-19

Dear Property Manager:

With hundreds of thousands of Marylanders out of work because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many families are understandably finding it hard to pay rent. Governor Hogan issued an emergency order that prohibits Maryland courts from ordering the eviction of any tenant who can show that their failure to pay rent was the result of COVID-19. As Maryland reopens, many will lose unemployment payments as they regain the ability to work without actually being able to return to full employment. During this continued State of Emergency and beyond, the City Council urges that you consider the following proposals to ensure an equitable transition for tenants:

1. Charge no interest or late fees until January 2021.
2. Arrange payment plans with your tenants, allowing up to three (3) years to pay fees owed.
3. Freeze rent increases from the start of the COVID-19 emergency until January 2021.
4. Suspend all eviction lawsuits due to late or non-payment of rent for the remainder of 2020.

Thank you for your timely consideration on this urgent matter.

Signed by all Council Members