

Address

April 28, 2020

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ Management

The Mayor and Council of the City of Mount Rainier urge you to address the crisis facing renters at your apartment complex. Millions of people have lost their jobs across the county and our community in Mt Rainier has been particularly hard hit. A Washington Post article from April 27 pointed out that 20712 is one of the hardest hit zip codes in the State for positive Covid-19 cases. In addition, we have a community of renters that is often unable to access unemployment benefits, let alone any other type of government aid. With the help of numerous organizations, we have been delivering food to hundreds of Mount Rainier residents who not only cannot pay rent, but cannot afford to eat.

We know that the state of emergency will end, but it will be a long time before our community can get back on their feet. People will have problems paying their rents in future months, let alone rents already accrued. These are unprecedented times that require unprecedented sacrifices. Further, we believe it is in your own self-interest to take these drastic steps, so that you will not spend months in eviction proceedings and looking for new tenants. Therefore, we urge you to alleviate the stress and trauma that is afflicting your community by taking steps to accommodate renters in the following ways:

- 1) Allow tenants 3 years to pay arrearages
- 2) Discount the months of May and all future months during the state of emergency by 25% for all tenants
- 3) Charge no interest or late fees to tenants
- 4) Make payment plans with tenants that allow for greater discounts than 25%
- 5) Freeze all rent increases through the rest of 2020
- 6) Suspend sending any and all eviction suits to court for the rest of 2020

We look forward to discussing these possibilities with you. We cannot wait any longer to act to make accommodations to tenants in crises.

Sincerely,