

From: [Carlee Gomes](#)
To: [Wong, Linda \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Item 1 for Budget + Appropriations Committee Meeting 3/17
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:07:42 PM

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Hello Supervisors,

My name is Carlee Gomes, I live/work in District 6, Chair Haney's District, and I am a member of DSA SF Homelessness Working Group. I am writing to call for support Supervisor Preston's ordinance (inclusive of his recent amendment) for Prop I funds to be allocated to rent relief and social housing in the city, and for the funds to be utilized in the way that voters intended, and frankly in the way that benefits the most people who live in this city of ours, particularly those who have been the most materially impacted by the pandemic.

In terms of rent relief, estimated total unpaid rents during the pandemic range from \$13 million to \$32 million per month.

Given that the city has no other plan to relieve ordinary tenants as well as many landlords of their rent burden, Prop I funds are our only option and the option that will have the most positive impact on our community right now and long-term, which is absolutely necessary as we prioritize solutions for response to crises at the local, state, and federal government level.

In terms of social housing, It's beyond clear the private housing market has failed time and time again to provide housing to meet the needs of low and moderate income renters and continues to put profit over people. Low and moderate income renters are citizens, they're our neighbors. If we have funds available to help the people in our community in need, it is the city's duty to do so.

We must live in society where survival is not a commodity, and where we grant people the dignity to live and thrive regardless of race, class, gender identity, or geography.

Thank you,
Carlee

From: [Jennifer Feng](#)
To: [Wong, Linda \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public comment: Support for appropriating Prop I funds toward rent relief and social housing
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:22:41 PM

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Dear Budget Committee,

My name is Jennifer, I live in District 3, and I am a member of DSA SF Ecosocialist Committee. I am calling to support Supervisor Preston's ordinance calling for Prop I funds to be split between rent relief and social housing.

As an ecosocialist, I **know** we need to decommodify survival. The private market has failed to adequately house thousands of San Franciscans. Gentrification and the rapidly worsening global climate crisis are already causing mass displacement, with the greatest impact on poor communities of color. We must build a society where housing is no longer a commodity and everybody lives in safe, affordable, sustainable housing, without fear of eviction or displacement. That's why I demand the Board appropriate Prop I funds for rent relief and social housing.

This issue is personal--the majority of my friends who are my age (mid-20s) live at home with their parents. They've applied to literally hundreds of jobs, but in this economy, employers aren't biting. If I had just a little less luck in finding a job I'd be in that situation as well. Having parents who can provide housing while we look for work is a relative privilege, but having housing shouldn't have to depend on having parents with stable housing. That is not even to mention the people who have become unemployed due to Covid and have no other option than to wait for their stimulus check to arrive to pay rent, if it ever does. People are hanging on by a *finger nail*, and if they fall they will end up homeless.

If rent relief isn't provided soon, up to 33,000 renters may be unable to pay rent due to lost income. But rental relief is a band-aid to help us limp along for the time being. For a *real* solution for the long term, we need a social housing program that addresses our need for safe, green, and affordable homes.

It is critical that we act *now* to decommodify housing, using proven strategies to provide housing as a human right. If we don't act, Big Real Estate will, leading to the further consolidation of the market into large investment portfolios that push prices ever upward. And working class people will continue to suffer.

Please listen to the will of the voters and use this money from the largest real estate transactions to ensure housing stability for all San Franciscans.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Feng