

**A RESOLUTION
BY COUNCILMEMBER BYRON D. AMOS**

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF “TENANT’S BILL OF RIGHTS” AND TO ENCOURAGE THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REPEAL ANY STATE-LEVEL PROHIBITION ON THE ABILITY OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A “TENANT’S BILL OF RIGHTS” FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING HOUSING EQUITY AND AFFORDABILITY TO THOSE RESIDING WITHIN THE CITY OF ATLANTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, renters make up 56.5% of the City of Atlanta residents, ranking third in the country for the largest proportion of renters to homeowners; and

WHEREAS, the city of Atlanta is one of the most rent-cost burdened cities in the nation with 49.2% of residents of Atlanta paying more than 30% of their income for rent; and

WHEREAS, evictions, displacement, high rents, and exploitation of tenants in Atlanta have created a widespread and urgent crisis—thousands of renters are being pushed out of their homes and communities or forced to live in hazardous conditions that threaten their health and safety; and

WHEREAS, forced displacement and uninhabitable living conditions disproportionately impact tenants of color, and single mothers living with children; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center on Budget Policy Priorities, one (1) in five (5) renter households with children are behind on rent; and

WHEREAS, displacement and exploitation of tenants at the hands of landlords leads to negative public health and financial outcomes that impact the City of Atlanta as a whole.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, that the Atlanta City Council supports the development of a “Tenant’s Bill of Rights” because renters and their families, who are most of Atlanta’s residents, need comprehensive reforms to advance public safety, public health, and build community prosperity, which are objectives in the clear interest of the City of Atlanta as a whole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Atlanta renters deserve reasonable due process protections such as:

- a right to counsel in eviction proceedings;
- a dedicated Office of the Tenant Advocate;
- information provided to tenants by property owners about their rights as tenants upon moving into their rental units;
- reasonable limits on ever increasing rents to stabilize housing costs;
- protection from discrimination on the basis of previous evictions which may not have been justified;
- and tenants should receive reasonable notice and an opportunity to cure any lease violation so that the stain of an eviction can be avoided in the first place.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Georgia General Assembly is encouraged to repeal any state-level prohibition on the ability of the City of Atlanta to develop and implement a “Tenant’s Bill of Rights” for the purpose of promoting housing equity and affordability to those residing within the City of Atlanta.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby waived to the extent of the conflict.