SECOND AMENDED ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
FOR THE CITY OF LIVERMORE
REGARDING TEMPORARY MORATORIUM
ON RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL EVICTIONS RESULTING FROM LOSS OF
INCOME, INCREASED MEDICAL EXPENSES, OR CHILD CARE NEEDS
RELATED TO COVID-19

On March 13, 2020, under the authority contained in California Government Code section 8634 and City of Livermore Municipal Code sections 2.56.050 and 2.56.060, I declared the existence of a local emergency in the City of Livermore.

On March 16, 2020, the City Council of the City of Livermore adopted a resolution ratifying the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency in the City of Livermore.

On March 16, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-28-20 permitting local governments to exercise their police power to impose substantive limitations on residential and commercial evictions under specified circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic or government response to COVID-19.

On March 24, 2020, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted an urgency ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium on evictions resulting from loss of income, increased medical expenses or childcare needs due to COVID-19, in unincorporated County areas.

On March 25, 2020, under my authority as the Emergency Services Director, I signed an Order Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on Residential and Commercial Evictions in Livermore.

On March 27, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-37-20 providing tenants in California an extension of 60 days to respond to an eviction complaint, if they are unable to pay rent due for specified reasons related to the COVID-19 emergency.

On March 31, 2020, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted an amended urgency ordinance expanding its residential eviction moratorium to apply to all cities in Alameda County, as well as unincorporated areas of the county.

On April 2, 2020, I signed the First Amended Order Establishing a Moratorium on Residential and Commercial Evictions (First Amended Order), to maintain consistency between the City’s Order, the County’s amended order and the Governor’s Executive Orders.

On April 13, 2020, the City Council of the City of Livermore adopted a resolution ratifying the First Amended Order.
On April 28, 2020, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors amended its eviction moratorium ordinance to suspend residential evictions for any reason, with limited exceptions, during the period of the local health emergency related to COVID-19 and continuing until thirty days after it ends. It further prohibits evictions based on the inability to pay as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, through May 31, 2020, and institutes detailed procedures and protections for residential tenants and homeowners in the county.

The amended ordinance permits cities within Alameda County to opt out of certain provisions of the ordinance, or to allow the County’s protections to apply to city residents and homeowners. In order to maintain consistency with the protections for residential tenants and homeowners in Livermore, the City will not opt out of any of the County’s provisions and will instead allow the amended county ordinance to govern Livermore residential evictions at this time. As such, all Livermore residential tenants, homeowners, and landlords should review the County’s amended ordinance, which can be found here: http://www.acgov.org/documents/AlamedaCounty-wideEvictionMoratorium.pdf

Alameda County’s commercial eviction ordinance applies only to unincorporated areas of Alameda County. Thus, a need remains to ensure commercial tenants in Livermore are adequately protected from evictions during this period of emergency. This includes tenants of self-storage facilities who may be facing summary, non-judicial lien sales of personal property necessary to perform essential services, as a result of the inability to pay rent due to the COVID-19 emergency. Commercial evictions and lien sales of personal property frustrate the purpose of eviction moratoriums that aim to keep people at home, in business, and stabilize economic impacts.

As a result of the public health emergency and the precautions recommended by the health authorities, many of the residential and commercial tenants in the City of Livermore have experienced or expect to experience a sudden and unexpected income loss. Further economic impacts are anticipated, leaving tenants vulnerable to eviction and termination of rental agreements.

Under California Government Code section 8634 and Livermore Municipal Code section 2.56.060.B.1, I am empowered upon the proclamation of a local emergency to make and issue orders and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such local emergency. These orders and regulations are to be confirmed by the City Council at the earliest practicable time.

THEREFORE, I, Marc Roberts, as Director of Emergency Services, order the following:

1. This Order hereby supersedes the First Amended Order signed on April 2, 2020 and ratified by the City Council on April 13, 2020. The Alameda County amended Ordinance, adopted on April 28, 2020, shall govern the protections provided to residential tenants and homeowners in the city of Livermore.
2. With regard to commercial tenancies and commercial rental agreements, no landlord or lessor shall endeavor to evict a commercial tenant for nonpayment of rent, limit their physical access to personal property or conduct lien sales, including but not limited to any such provisions under California Civil Code sections 798.56 et seq., 1940 et seq., or 1954.25 et seq., Business and Professions Code section 21700 et seq., if the tenant or lessee demonstrates that the inability to pay rent is due to, or arising out of, a substantial decrease in business income or substantial out of pocket medical expense, or extraordinary child care needs, any of which was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, or by any local, state, or federal government response to COVID-19, and is documented in writing.

3. "Substantial decrease in business income" includes, but is not limited to, income loss caused by work closures, reduction in staff reporting to work, reduction in opening hours, or reduction in customer demand, compliance with government health authority orders, or other similarly-caused reason resulting in loss of business income due to COVID-19, substantiated with written documentation or other objectively verifiable proof of the same.

4. A landlord who knows that a tenant cannot pay some or all of the rent temporarily for the reasons set forth above shall not serve a notice pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1161 or 1162, or Business and Professions Code section 21703 as applicable, file or prosecute an unlawful detainer action based on a three-day notice to pay or quit, conduct a lien sale, or otherwise seek to evict or terminate a rental agreement for nonpayment of rent during the period of the local emergency and while this Order is in place.

5. A landlord is presumed to know of a tenant’s inability to pay rent within the meaning of this Order if the tenant or mobile homeowner, within 30 days after the date that rent is due, notifies the landlord in writing of tenant’s or mobile homeowner’s inability to pay full rent because of a substantial decrease in business income, or out of pocket medical expenses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, or extraordinary child care needs, or by any local, state, or federal government response to COVID-19, and provides documentation to support the claim. Any medical or financial information provided to the landlord shall be held in confidence and only used for evaluating the tenant’s claim.

6. A landlord is also prohibited from retaliating against a tenant that qualifies for the protections set forth in this order during the term of the moratorium. For example, a landlord, and any of the landlord’s employees or agents, is prohibited from terminating utilities or blocking physical access to personal property to a qualified tenant protected by this moratorium.
7. Nothing in this Order relieves the tenant of liability for the unpaid rent, which the landlord may seek after the expiration of this Order or subsequently enacted Ordinance.

This Order shall go into effect immediately and be in effect through June 30, 2020, concurrent with County's amended ordinance cited in this Order, and with the California Governor's Executive Order N-37-20, unless it is superseded by a duly enacted Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Livermore or a superseding order issued by a duly authorized person or agency. This Order may be extended or supplemented in response to subsequent Executive Orders by the Governor of the State of California on this subject, or orders or ordinances issued or adopted by Alameda County complementing or superseding this Order, or the City Council or the Director of Emergency Services for the City of Livermore.

Dated: 5-5-2020

Marc Roberts
Director of Emergency Services