

Asha Venkataraman

Date: June 7, 2021

Version: 1

## Amendment 1

to

### RES 31998 – Eviction Moratorium

Sponsor: CM Sawant

Updating recitals and requesting the Governor establish a new eviction moratorium

Amend the following as shown:

\* \* \*

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Washington Governor issued Proclamation 20-19, to temporarily prohibit residential evictions statewide until April 17, 2020, and has subsequently amended the prohibition on residential evictions statewide, currently in place through ~~March 31~~June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2021, the Washington Governor signed into law Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5160, which states that “[t]he eviction moratorium instituted by the governor of the state of Washington's proclamation 20-19.6 shall end on June 30, 2021”; and

WHEREAS, there is nothing in ESSB 5160 or in other legislation preventing the Washington Governor from issuing a proclamation declaring a new eviction moratorium after June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, as a result of the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19, its significant progression in Seattle, and the high risk it poses to the most vulnerable populations, Mayor Durkan issued an emergency order imposing an eviction moratorium, subsequently extended, and currently in place until ~~March 31~~June 30, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, on March 4, 2021, 47 unions, tenant advocates, immigrant rights groups, and other organizations sent an open letter to Mayor Durkan stating, “we are writing to urge you to extend Seattle’s eviction moratorium for residents, small businesses, and nonprofits beyond its current expiration date of March 31, 2021. We ask that it be extended through the end of this year, and that you announce this extension as soon as possible”; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2021, the Washington Community Action Network began a letter writing campaign to Governor Inslee stating, “[w]e are calling for an extension of the Eviction Moratorium through the end of the year to make sure renters have time to access rent relief programs, get back to their normal incomes, and can get caught up on rent. We won some important policies in the state legislature, but to make sure those policies are effective, we need to ensure renters have time to catch up on rent”; and

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2021, the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance began a letter writing campaign to Governor Inslee stating that, “incredible numbers of renters are applying for rental assistance and it will take months to get the funds distributed. Lifting the moratorium and allowing landlords to proceed with evictions a month from now would be grossly irresponsible”; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau published the Household Pulse Survey, which found that 270,000 Washington State renters have no or little confidence they will be able to pay rent next month (18 percent of all state renters), and 98,000 Washington State renters think it is very or somewhat likely they will be evicted in the next two months;

~~WHEREAS, before the pandemic, 78 percent of American workers were living paycheck to paycheck, and nearly 75 percent reported being in debt, and as a result of COVID and the~~

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~~economic recession, more than 30 million Americans—including at least 650,000~~

~~Washingtonians—are at risk of eviction if current emergency measures expire at the end of March; and~~

~~WHEREAS, on March 1, 2021, the Associated Press reported that “a senior World Health Organization official said Monday it was “premature” and “unrealistic” to think the pandemic might be stopped by the end of the year”;~~ NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

Section 1. The Seattle City Council urges Washington Governor Jay Inslee to ~~amend~~ issue a new proclamation, substantively similar to Proclamation 20-19, to ~~extend the~~ establish a statewide moratorium on residential evictions through no earlier than the end of 2021, and to make that announcement as soon as possible. The Seattle City Council requests the Office of Intergovernmental Relations convey the content of this resolution to the Office of the Governor.

\* \* \*

**Effect:** This amendment would update the resolution’s recitals to include actions that have occurred since March 15, 2021. It also amends the request to the Governor by asking for establishment of a new eviction moratorium since ESSB 5160 ends the existing moratorium on June 30, 2021.