

## Members of the Emergency Committee

Regarding your upcoming decision to provide housing assistance to renters, I encourage you to provide direct rent assistance directly to landlords for the following reasons:

- Disaster relief should be provided for both tenants and landlords - to ensure renters pay for their rent on time and landlords can receive the income they need to provide and maintain their rentals.
- A deferral of mortgage payments is extremely helpful; however, it doesn't provide the landlord with needed income. I personally rely on my rentals to provide income, and I have 2-3 roofs to put on this year!
- Direct payments to landlords for their own tenants will ensure the money goes directly to rent.
- Not all renters need rent assistance, so there needs to be an application of some sort to: 1) Qualify the renter to ensure the rent assistance is actually needed and is due to the Coronavirus. Some renters may not be out of work and are able to continue their current employment. If they were laid off or fired, then they could apply for unemployment, which may also cover housing.

As part of your decision-making process, I hope you'll get feedback from renters and landlords. I hope you also consider potential unintended outcomes that could result from any decision.

Thank you for working on this matter,

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