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Argument in Favor of Measure R

Measure R will save people from losing their homes and prevent housing providers from losing income. The least expensive way to reduce homelessness is to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place by providing short term rental assistance. Due to high rents and stagnant incomes, many households simply do not have the savings to pay for rent when a medical emergency strikes, a job is lost, or a family member passes away. Among people experiencing homelessness across California, the vast majority say that a shallow subsidy or one-time payment could have kept them housed. For over a year, Albany has been providing such short-term financial support, preventing people from losing their homes. Using a portion of the City's pandemic funding, this program has helped about 50 households so far.

Unfortunately, while this funding will run out in 2026, Albany residents will continue to need assistance in the future. The tax levied would average \$10 per month for each residence rented by businesses with four or fewer residences in Albany. For those renting five or more, this rate would average \$25 per month. With this modest tax, the city can fund not only short-term rental assistance, but emergency mortgage assistance for rental businesses that have a financial emergency, legal aid for tenants and housing providers who cannot afford it, and a proactive code enforcement program. Together these will keep Albany residents from losing their housing, keep housing providers from losing income due to sudden vacancies and evictions, provide more people with representation when they need it, and ensure rented homes are safe for those living in them. Please join us and Albany Thrives Together in supporting our rental housing and vote for Measure R.

/s/ Robin López, Vice Mayor

/s/ Aaron Tiedemann, City Council member

/s/ Preston Jordan, City Council member

/s/ Jim Beller, President, Albany Thrives Together

/s/ Margie Marks, Secretary, Albany Thrives Together