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       PROPOSED HOUSING REGULATIONS REGARDING DISCRIMINATORY
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       EFFECT; DISCRIMINATORY LAND USE PRACTICES; AND USE OF
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                   CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION
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                       SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
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L8 L9	State of California, Fair Employment and Housing Council,	20	
20	State Capitol, 1315 10th Street, Room 127, Sacramento, California, commencing on Thursday, March 30, 2017, at	21	
21	10:30 a.m., before Karen Challe, Certified Shorthand		
22	Reporter Number 8244.	22	EXHIBITS
23		23	(None offered)
24		24	
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1	ADDEAD ANCEC.	1	CACDAMENTO CALIFORNIA, TUUDODAY MADOU 20, 201
2	APPEARANCES:	2	SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA; THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 201
3	For the Fair Employment and Housing Council:		10:30 A.M.
4	Tor the Fair Employment and Housing Council.	3	
	CHAYA MANDELBAUM, Chairperson	4	MR. MANDELBAUM: So we're ready for our public
5	DALE BRODSKY, Council Member	5	hearing. So let's get going. We are on the record. It
	MARK T. HARRIS, Council Member	6	is a little bit before 9:30 or 10:30 a.m. rather, on
6	TIM IGLESIAS, Council Member	7	Thursday, March 30th. We are here at the State Capitol in
	DARA L. SCHUR, Council Member	8	Sacramento. My name is Chaya Mandelbaum, Chairperson of
7	Kevin Kish, Ex-Officio Member	9	the Fair Employment and Housing Council.
8		10	Joining me today are members of the Fair
9	Also Present:	11	Employment and Housing Council. Council members Dale
10	PRIAM CREPRED Day late // cristally a Constally	12	
11	BRIAN SPERBER, Regulatory/Legislative Counsel		Brodsky, Dara Schur, Tim Iglesias and Mark Harris, as well
12		13	as well as ex-officio member and Director of the
13		14	Department, Kevin Kish.
14		15	Even though we have made initial introductions,
15		16	let me again welcome you to this hearing. The purpose of
16		17	this hearing is to receive public comment regarding
17		18	issuance of amendments to the Fair Employment and Housing
18		19	Regulations that add proposed housing regulations for the
19		20	first time. The housing regulations covered concern
20		21	discriminatory effect, discriminatory land use practices
21		22	and the use of criminal history information. This
00		23	rulemaking action clarifies and makes specific the housing
			THE HANDU ACTION CALLIES AND MAKES SPECIAL THE HOUSING
23			
22 23 24 25	//	24	rights and responsibilities of FEHA set forth at
23 24	<i>//</i>		

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prohibits harassment and discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, familial status, source of income, disability or genetic information. The proposed regulations are slated to appear in the California Code of Regulations Title 2 Sections 11098.04.1 through .04.6., 11098.14.1 through .14.4 and 11098.18.1 through 18.8. Copies of the proposed amendments are available in the back of the room and are reflected in Attachment D to the materials. The Notice and Initial Statement of Reasons are reflected in Attachments B and C respectively. The regulations also are available on the Council's web page. And the Council is holding this formal hearing as part of its formal rulemaking process. We Noticed the public hearing more than 45 days ago in the California Regulatory Notice Register published on February 3rd, 2017, and also via e-mail sent to thousands of individuals and stakeholders on the Council's web-page, and in addition on the Council's web-page, rather. 

Pursuant to that Notice we are taking testimony today. We will also accept written testimony on the proposed regulations until 5:00 p.m. today. You can e-mail the written comments to the Council at fehcouncil@dfeh.ca.gov. If you prefer to mail them, you

today. However, we do ask that you come to the front of the room and speak into the microphone so the court reporter can take down your testimony. Please begin by stating and spelling your name and your affiliation. Also if you are commenting on a specific regulation, please identify the section and subsection in the course of your comments so that we may refer to it while you speak. We will hear testimony until all those wishing to testify have had an opportunity to do so.

Unless there are any initial questions, we're ready to begin.

Hearing none, whoever wants to go first, c'mon

MR. PADDOCK: Good morning Chairman and Council Members. My name is Justin Paddock. J-u-s-t-i-n. P-a-d-d-o-c-k. Representing the California Association of Realtors. I apologize, I did not submit my written comments until last night, so I appreciate the fact that no one's had time to review them. I will be very brief in summarizing my comments, and then happy to answer any questions you have.

The first is with Section 11098.14.1 Subdivision B. We're just asking that the word "constraint" be replaced with "condition." When we're referring to transactions related to Title or CCNRs, it's just a more

Page 6 Page 8

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can do that as well, to the DFEH or to the Council, rather, care of Brian Sperber at the DFEH's Los Angeles office at 320 West 4th Street Street, 10th Floor in Los Angeles, California 90013.

If you brought written comments and you're not planning to separately submit them, please give a copy to Brian Sperber. If you did not bring a copy with you, please transmit it by 5:00 p.m. today.

Anyone that testifies here today or submits written comments will receive a copy of any change or amendments the Council makes to the proposed amendments to the FEHA regulations, as will anyone who makes such a request. Also, anyone who testifies or submits written comments will have a 15-day period within which to make further written comment on any further changes that are proposed that the Council makes during the rulemaking process.

The Council will consider each comment here today, and we'll respond to each comment in its final statement of reasons, which will become part of the Council rulemaking record. The hearing is being transcribed by a Certified Court Reporter, and a transcript, as well as all written comments will be available through the -- through the rulemaking record.

You will not be sworn in when you testify here

common term that we use. With that, I'll move on to my second point, which is I saw in Article 18 of the initial statement of reasons a reference to a David Thatcher article. I wasn't able to actually get that on-line. So I would request that the rulemaking file be updated to include all information that's materially relied upon.

The remainder of my comments relate to the discriminatory effects tests. We feel on several points they exceed the federal guidance. That certainly is within your purview, but we ask further discussion explain why and under what circumstances you are exceeding that federal guidance. And I'll go through with some detail those points.

The first is related to 11098.18.3 Subdivision
B. Specifically we're referring to a plaintiff's burden
to establish disparate impact. There is a presumption in
that subdivision that national or State statistics are
presumed to be sufficient. According to the federal
guidance, we actually feel that an adjudicator should
evaluate a claimant's evidence on a case by case basis, as
opposed to a presumption. I'll leave it at that, unless
you have further questions. And I'm happy to answer them
with Council off line after this hearing completes as
well.

With that, the second point, Section 11098.18.4,

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1 we feel that the Council should have further discussion on 2 drug manufacturing and distribution crimes. Those are 3 carved out in the federal law. We do have some concerns, 4 especially with someone with a history of methamphetamine 5 manufacturer. There are several state laws where you have 6 to disclose a property actually -- methamphetamines were 7 produced on that property. And because of that, we feel that specifically in a landlord/tenant relationship, a 9 landlord should have some more thorough of review someone 10 who has that sort of a history because that can really 11 be -- that can hurt their title in the long term. And 12 happy to answer further questions on that after the 13 hearing. 14 The next point --15

MS. SCHUR: Excuse me. Are those citations of those State laws in your written comments?

MR. PADDOCK: Yes. They absolutely are.

MS. SCHUR: Thank you.

MR. PADDOCK: Next, with regard to Section 11098.18.6, we would like further discussion on restitution, when restitution is ordered by a court. So essentially -- and I apologize. I will say tenant. But I appreciate that this just -- this -- these regulations don't relate just to a landlord/tenant action. But it's usually where the best hypotheticals are for discussion 1 of Evidence 603. And I go into more detail in the letter. 2

Actually places ten years when a witness is being

3 evaluated for their credibility for a finder of fact. And 4 there's a few other citations that I've given as far as

bankruptcy laws are concerned, why ten years seems to be standard within Statute.

With that, I'll invite any questions. And I appreciate your time. Thank you.

MR. MANDELBAUM: Thank you. Appreciate it, Mr. Paddock. Look forward to reviewing your written comments on these subjects.

MS. PROUT: Good morning. I'm Whitney Prout from the California Apartment Association. W-h-i-t-n-e-y. Last name Prout. P-r-o-u-t.

First I'd like to thank the Council for undertaking this project of trying to clarify the murky area of law that is discriminatory effect. It certainly not an easy challenge. So we welcome the attempt to bring some clarity for our members and other housing providers throughout the State.

With that being said, we do have a couple of comments where we feel that the proposed regulations as written either don't sufficiently clarify or may actually amplify some of the confusions surrounding that. Starting with Article 4, the Discriminatory Effect Regulations,

Page 10 Page 12

purposes.

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With regard to restitution, when a landlord is evaluating a tenant application, when restitution has been ordered, we think it's appropriate that a landlord also be able to evaluate how they're doing on their payments, just to make sure that they're actually meeting the requirements of the Court.

My final comment for today relates to the same section, Subdivision B. There's a rebuttable presumption of seven years for crimes. We feel that further discussion is necessary on this individual point. We don't, as an association, have a specific number to suggest to you, whether it's seven years, whether it's ten years or whether it's another number. But we feel there were citations to essentially financial reporting sections in this Civil Code, as well as a study. We feel that those sections, while persuasive, we feel there's additional evidence that's required with regard to financial reporting. It's a little bit different when you're considering the ramifications of a criminal conviction, versus failure to pay a credit card that occurred eight years ago. So we just would like the Council to do some further discussion as to why seven years is the appropriate number. With that, I would also reference Federal Rule

11098.04.1, in Subsection B, we'd just ask that the words "an individual" be stricken. A discriminatory effect --

the discriminatory effect is on the members of the

protected class, in other words, a group of individuals,

not a discriminatory effect on one particular individual.

6 And so we'd request that the regulation be clarified to 7

remove that language that a discriminatory effect could be

8 on a single individual. 9 In Section 11098.04.2, this deals with burdens

10 of proof in discriminatory effect cases. Subsection B 11 states that a defendant has the burden of proof for all 12 prongs of a legally sufficient justification defense, 13 which under the proposed regulations as written includes 14 the burden of proving that there's no less discriminatory 15 alternative. In both the HUD regulation on this topic, as 16 well as the employment regulations that this Council has

17 considered, shift that burden back to the plaintiff to

1.8 show a less discriminatory alternative. And we'd

19 recommend that's actually a better approach, otherwise you 20

have housing providers trying to prove a negative, and 21 it's a difficult task to undertake. There's nothing in

22 FEHA which requires the burden of proving a less

23 discriminatory alternative to be placed on the defendant.

24 And so we'd request that the Council follow HUD and the 25 employment guidance on that, shifting it to the plaintiff.

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Looking at Section 11098.04.3, this is dealing with the legally sufficient justification. You know, the section of FEHA that deals with this is not the picture of clarity. And so we do recognize that the Council here in some ways is working with an imperfect starting point. But that being said, the distinction between business establishments and other types of entities that appears in the statutes creates confusion over when to apply which standard. And that's amplified by the regulation's use of that same bifurcation. In the same vein, requiring business owners to show that the interests, that the practices designed to serve as necessary to the operation of the business -- quote, unquote -- is problematic because it appears to hold businesses to a higher standard than non-businesses, and there's no justification for that. If you look through the legislative history for the Government Code section on this, there's nothing that indicates that businesses were intended to be held to a higher standard. And that really stems from this use of the term necessary to the operation of the business.

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In other words what's necessary for a business? Is making a profit necessary? And so we request that the Council either consider a unified standard that applies to both business establishments and non-business establishments, and we do include proposed regu---

housing providers that choose to screen for criminal

2 background, because they essentially call for an

3 individualized assessment. And the concern with that is

4 that actually promotes discrimination rather than

5 discourages it. Because individualized assessments are

6 inherently subjective and inconsistent depending on the

7 particular facts of the situation, and who is conducting

the assessment. And so as a general comment, we'd

9 encourage the Council, in revising these proposed 10 regulations, to keep an eye towards crafting the

11 regulations in such a way that housing providers can come

12 up with an objective screening criteria that they can

13 apply consistently in order to avoid liability and in

14 order to avoid a situation where they're no longer able to

15 conduct thorough tenant screening, and which ultimately 16

lowers the quality of housing for all the tenants there. 17 If you're not able to effectively screen for tenants with

18 behavioral issues, that may not meet tenancy obligations. 19

Looking at the particular regulations, 11098.18.1, we'd request that the Council clarify or provide a definition of the term criminal history information, or use a different term, such as criminal records or conviction records. The concern here is that

2.4 the term criminal history information could be interpreted

25 to broadly include information about prior unlawful

Page 14

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proposed language in our written comments to that effect, or that the Council provides some sort of definition as to what's considered necessary or not.

Another just cleanup measure in -- under both Subsections A and B, when it speaks about the less discriminatory alternatives. Currently the regulation is -- the proposed regulations simply say that a less discriminatory alternative could not be served by another practice. FEHA actually has a higher requirement, which is that a less discriminatory alternative equally well or better serve the interest. And so we ask that that be included in the regulations to avoid a situation where you have an alternative which in some ways serve the -- serves the interest, but not as effectively or not as well as the practice that's being advanced.

Skipping to the criminal history regulations, Article 18. I have a couple of preliminary comments, which is first that the California Apartment Association has always encouraged our members who do choose to screen, for criminal backgrounds to apply a narrowly tailored screening criteria, and with that respect, that can applied objectively and consistently. The HUD guidance that came out last year, and these regulations, as they're proposed regulations, as they're written make that an extremely difficult task for any of our members or other

conduct which did not result in an arrest or conviction, but may have been obtained from a prior landlord. For

example, if a tenant or an applicant was evicted from a

prior residence due to unlawful activity that resulted in an unlawful detainer action, which of course relates to

5 the tenant screening. But it's not clear whether that 7

would be covered under the term criminal history

8 information or not.

> Second, 11098.18.2. I have two concerns here. One is that this section makes it a violation to make statements that conflict with either this article or Article 4, the discriminatory effect regulations. But neither of those articles are on the issue of compliance. In other words, they don't provide guidance on how to make statements that are lawful. And so that creates some ambiguity as to what exactly a housing provider can or cannot say or do in a particular situation. The other concern is that that requirement also conflicts with a later suggestion in this article that housing providers actually provide to applicants copies of what their written screening criteria is that they would be applying with respect to criminal history information. And so if it could be found that providing that information to an applicant is a violation of this text, yet that's also something that's suggested by the text, that's, of course,

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an inherent conflict. And I'll also note the Legislature has expressed an intent that it's actually a good practice for housing providers to provide tenants -- or applicants, I'm sorry -- with a copy of their screening criteria. And we see that in the mobile home context. Civil Code Section 798.74 states that mobile home park owners must provide a written copy of their screening criteria to any perspective homeowner, which in the mobile home game, tenants -- with a copy of that upon request.

Looking at Section 11098.18.3, this deals with the plaintiff's burden of proof in discriminatory effect cases related to criminal history. The first point -- let me make sure I have my subsections right for you -- is that in Subsection A, we'd ask for a cleanup of this section. We do include proposed language in our written comments. As written, the section is somewhat duplicative, and it leaves out a key element in these cases, which is causation. It essentially seems to apply that convict- -- the use of conviction statistics, showing some sort of disparity, establishes a discriminatory effect. And that's inconsistent with the case law that's been written by the U.S. Supreme Court, and the inclusive community properties case, which is very clear that the statistical disparity has to be caused by the practice that's being challenged. Just the fact that there's a

to mean that a housing provider has to show something beyond a rational relationship between the disqualifying offense and tenancy obligation, how exactly a housing provider would show that. Of course housing providers don't have control groups on their properties to show that a differently reg -- you know, a differently treated area has different outcomes. And so it's unclear how exactly they would show that.

There also appears to be a mistake in Subsection C that just showing a less discriminatory alternative doesn't defeat a discriminatory effect. It actually tends to prove it. And so we included some -- some cleanup language in our written comments, which we will be submitting. I'm almost done I promise.

Finally, in Subsection C, where we see a number of different factors here that a housing provider should consider such mitigating factors. There's a number of issues with these, including how a housing provider would apply these factors? What weight should be given to which evidence? Whether they have to take information provided by an applicant is true? Whether they can verify it? Those are all listed out and discussed in detail in our written comments. But I'd encourage the Council to look closely as those -- this is really at the heart of what makes it nearly impossible for a housing provider to come

Page 18 Page 20

disparity, if it's unrelated -- if it's not caused by the practice, of course, you can't hold the housing provider liable for that. And so we'd ask that that be clarified.

It also -- and I'll touch on this very briefly, as the realtors touched on it. The presumption for national statistics is inconsistent with what we see in the HUD guidance, which actually expresses more of a preference for local statistics, if they're available. And likewise, there's nothing in either the HUD guidance or FEHA which provides a presumption as to the relevance of any statistics. The plaintiff has the burden of proving the discriminatory effect, and I'm not aware of the authority for creating a presumption based on statistical evidence.

Looking at 11098.18.4, legally sufficient justification in criminal cases. Many of the same concerns that I discussed with respect to the general discriminatory effect. Regulations apply, and so I won't repeat those. But looking at Subsection B4, this section adds an additional requirement which states the housing provider must prove that its policy actually achieves the identified interest and accurately distinguishes between conduct that poses a demonstrable risk and that which does not. The concern here is that it's unclear what exactly this means, and to the extent that language is interpreted

up with an objective written screening criteria if they have to conduct an individualized assessment.

And then looking at 11098.5, this is the intentional violations liability. We would ask that the Council reconsider its language regarding the strong evidence that two people have been treated differently. If a housing provider was applying the standards that are discussed earlier in these proposed regulations, it's quite possible that you would have two different applicants with similar conviction records being treated differently. For example, if one person could show rehabilitation efforts, and the other couldn't. And so that's concerning, and we'd ask that the Council consider that in revising these regulations. We'd also ask that a provision be added which provides a housing provider who has revised their policy, perhaps in response to these regulations of a HUD guidance, that they not be held liable for discriminatory effect where the difference in treatment between two applicants is a result of a uniform change in policy that has been applied consistently.

And again, we do propose language in our written comments on that. With that, I invite any questions. Otherwise I'll stop talking.

MR. MANDELBAUM: Thank you very much. MS. PROUT: Thank you.

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MS. SCHUR: Let me just say we really appreciate it when you provide proposed language. So thank you for doing that. It's helpful for us when we're evaluating the comments. So thank you.

MS. PROUT: Thank you.

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MR. KINGSTON: Mr. Chairman. Members of the Council. Ron Kingston. And with me is John Smock. We represent four apartment associations. The Apartment Association of Southern California Cities, the Apartment Association of Orange County, East Bay Rental Housing Association and the North Valley Property Owners Association. We have submitted written comments. We e-mailed them to Brian. He's shaking his head that he has received them. I trust that you have read our several-page submission by now. But we would like to just review some of the highlights of this submission.

Excuse me. Brian? Should we hand these out? MR. SPERBER: I'll distribute them. Did you think -- I can give it to them now.

MR. KINGSTON: Yeah. Okay. Thank you very

We are -- we have been participating at your hearings throughout the State on various subject matters over the last couple years. In this case we want to speak to the issue of criminal history. And because you, like

assessment reports. We back that up. We show you in our letter where it is located and we cite what that is. And it -- and the reason why we say that it is helpful is because it serves as a backdrop for this discussion.

The -- as our -- as the duty to keep our property safe, and also provide safety for our tenants, we have, overall, a legitimate non-discriminatory policy about this. And I understand how you labor through these issues, specifically now, as to the matters that we wanted to address before the Council today.

Under 11098.184, it states that establishing a legally sufficient justification relating to criminal history information. And our question here is where owners are to prove that their practice meets the legal standards is -- quote -- "specific and substantial." We honestly don't know what that means. We would seek clarification with regard to that. You know, because we must understand how to consider the -- as the terms are used, the nature and severity of the crime. Now generally, so that's one of a couple issues within this

There are other examples s here in your regulation -- proposed regulations that convictions are to be related to fulfilling the housing obligation, whatever that means. And that is particularly troublesome as you

Page 22 Page 24

us, are trying to meet the need for the tenants, balanced against the needs of housing providers. And there are several specific sections here that we will address. In some part we will show and illustrate conflicts. In other cases we will be making specific language suggestions. There are some issues here that conflict with federal law, and what is proposed. We have noted that in our letter as well. And there are some very confusing terms here that we are going to try to point out that can be problematic for everyone concerned.

And the overall issue here is that as housing providers, we are liable and subject to asset forfeiture, nuisance abatement of criminal activity. We are subject to very specific laws regarding providing a safe, habitable property. This is illustrated in statute and decisional law. And we point some of those out in our letter. And we are more than happy to elaborate as the case may be.

Overall, we do note, and we provide statistics, which I think are really helpful background, showing what the recidivism rate is in California. It's 65 percent.

And 73.5 percent within one year for repeat offenders. It is a very significant number. There's well over 20 percent of all California, that have been convicted of some form of a crime. This is identified in the CDCR risk

wind through your proposed regulation. For example, in here you note that arson and possession of illegal weapons could be used directly related to tenancy obligation. But it doesn't explain why. And why is this pointed out, versus any other crime? It's so in the negative pregnant, we don't know what other crimes mean in the severity of theirs versus the two that you've -- I think -- try to help identify. And by you providing clarity, it actually is the reverse, in our judgment. It provides a great deal of confusion. And that could be extremely problematic for everybody concerned.

The regulation doesn't explain how an owner -- quote -- "prove that the practice actually achieves the identified interest" -- unquote. And unfortunately, there are no statistics that are required or internal studies that are needed. And one, I guess, could argue that the standard is almost impossible to meet. And this is something we're asking, respectfully asking you to investigate and provide a great deal of clarity.

The regulation also admits clarification about what is meant on how to prove that a practice is -- quote -- "accurately distinguishes between criminal conduct and poses a demonstrable risk." We're not sure what that really means, and respectfully ask to -- further clarification. In this 11098.18.4, we ask for further

Page 23

1 1 clarification, and this is the reason why. In this it that I can take a look at to get that clarification? 2 2 states that convictions are to be related to renting MR. KINGSTON: There -- we will provide one more 3 3 property. From a rental property owner's perspective, letter --4 MR. HARRIS: Okay. arguments could be made that a number of conviction types 5 5 are related to a person's capacity to meet his or her MR. KINGSTON: -- on the couple issues that 6 6 rental obligations, but we're not provided enough perhaps we haven't identified that. Thank you, 7 7 information for evaluation, which would be subject to Mr. Harris, for pointing that out. investigation and po- -- and legal remedy. 8 MR. HARRIS: Okay. 9 9 MR. KINGSTON: There are some issues. Let's MR. HARRIS: Mr. Chairman, question? If it's 10 10 appropriate. I'm a teacher. So pardon me. take for example, 11098.13.3A. We don't know what the 11 11 MR. KINGSTON: Okay. words "overbroad and arbitrary" in criminal history mean. 12 12 MR. HARRIS: Because the person who is least It would be great to provide definition. And under .18.4 13 13 intelligent in the room is typically the teacher. C1, when we are supposed to take into account 14 14 MR. KINGSTON: Or the smartest. individualized -- quote -- "individualized mitigating 15 15 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. You're -- first of all, it's information and evidence for rehabilitation," we don't 16 16 good to see you. You and John. I haven't seen you in know what the standard would be besides just take into 17 17 many years. When I was here all those many years ago, so account. We would love to know what is meant by "take 18 18 were you. You guys haven't aged. I have. into account." Does this provide a challenge -- potential 19 19 MR. KINGSTON: I've just lost a lot of hair. challenge for each and every applicant for residential 20 20 MR. HARRIS: But what are the examples? I mean, housing? I would hope not. I would hope there would be a 21 21 you know, I'm listening to this. You're making, in my more -- a broader standard that is applied. And so 22 22 opinion, some valid points relative to all of us seeking instead of having exact personal nature in every 23 23 clarity, and all of us seeking a clear path on this. But applicant, that we have to then review or establish, it 24 2.4 what you just stated, for example, to the extent you can would be good for some greater clarity, one. Two, that it 25 25 provide some examples. The previous speaker did an would be applied to all, in this case, property owners. Page 26 Page 28 1 1 excellent job providing contextual examples. And I don't So we -- so we could track, follow, easily apply and move 2 2 want to put you on the spot now. Some of that you do in on. Because most of these aren't of -- that are of great 3 3 your written document. But to the extent as the new kid concern, are going to be towards what we would popularly 4 4 on the block, you can provide the contextual examples that refer to as "mom and pops." Mom and pops, we're going to 5 clarify this for me, I'd be happy to receive those as a 5 have the least sophistication in renting property. If 6 part of the Council. 6 they had a bright light and standard, it would be the 7 MR. KINGSTON: Mr. Harris, a lot of it is 7 absolutely best that we could achieve. 8 embodied in the letter. I'm trying to shorten our 8 Just a couple other points, and then Mr. Smock 9 conversation --9 will follow. 1.0 MR. HARRIS: Uh-huh. 10 We -- there are some -- as pointed out, there 11 MR. KINGSTON: -- and just illustrate --11 are some different standards between HUD and what this 12 MR. HARRIS: Uh-huh. 12 proposes. And we would -- we cite the HUD standard. We 13 MR. KINGSTON: -- some of the problems. And in 13 cite in the letter the exact language that HUD has versus 14 our letter the has been provided to you, it identifies the 14 what you have. And that would be far better to merge 15 section, identifies the verbiage. It tries to provide, 15 those two, so we don't have conflicting standards. And 16 in each case, illustration for correction or contextual 16 then -- the issue that -- and finally I guess I would just 17 understanding. And so for the rest of my testimony, what 17 say about a nexus, addressing a nexus prong. And this is 18 we'll do is we'll follow that lead, instead of --1.8 under 11098.704 B3. That there is an applicant's capacity 19 MR. HARRIS: Excuse me. 19 to fulfill his lease or obligation can't be based on their 20 MR. KINGSTON: -- instead of going backward. 20 criminal record. Because we don't know how to assess a 21 MR. HARRIS: Just to clarify. I've read your 21 person's capacity based on a criminal record. And this 22 document, if this is the one you're referring to. And the 22 is -- this will require some work and some really close 23 challenge is, a lot of times you say they're are missing 23 examination about the term "capacity." We won't be able 24 clarification, without providing clarification. So is 24 to assess it. We -- on an individual basis, we just don't 25 there another document that either has been submitted, or know how to achieve that standard. And so we point out in

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1 1 here exactly where it's located. The suggestion that they will be subjected to the 2 2 And Mr. Harris, we don't have a solution for commission's investigative resources at every turn, which 3 3 this one. It's just something that -- it's something that is very expensive, and in the judgment of several owners, 4 you're going to -- the Council and staff are just going to nonproductive with respect to the ability to conduct their 5 5 have to work through and provide that clarification. rental practices in a way that do not impact their other 6 6 MS. BRODSKY: I have a question I want to ask obligations to tenants, to their employees and to their 7 7 about that. Maybe just with respect to the word capacity. property. And so it's a very fine line. And in our Is that derived from some source? That word also jumped judgment, this entire process has largely shifted the 9 9 out at me. Is that from some source that you're relying burden to owners to disprove their activities that have 10 10 on or what does it mean? very generally, over the years, been rather successful 11 MR. IGLESIAS: So actually I thought in your 11 with respect to the housing of persons with prior criminal 12 12 comments you recommended that we substitute "risk." records 13 13 MS. BRODSKY: Risk. Objectively, and using common sense, these 14 14 MR. KINGSTON: Risk. Yes. people, for the most part, are living in rental units now. 15 15 Owners are not discriminating to a humongous degree. That MR. IGLESIAS: So you actually did do that 16 16 specific recommendation. So we'll just -would be suggested by the activities here and at least 17 17 MR. KINGSTON: I'm impressed. You read the -place a burden on owners to disprove their motivation, 18 18 thank you. You get a gold star. their activities, their judgment with respect to their 19 19 MS. BRODSKY: So with that answer today, that housing policy. And so overall, as I say, as a general 20 20 was their way of, I think, dealing with it. But I was proposition, this moves in the direction of discrimination 21 21 wondering whether there was some source for that? and having to disprove discrimination, as opposed to the 22 22 MR. KINGSTON: We have a source, most certainly. positive use of discretion, judgment, and in essence you 23 23 We do that. But -- you know -- it invited a better part are shifting to the owners throughout the process a 24 2.4 of two or three hours of discussion in my office of liability that owners don't want to take. 25 what -- how do we achieve this and get away from capacity, 25 It's their property. It's their resources. Page 30 Page 32 1 1 It's their livelihood which is subjected to great risk at the term "capacity." And the best we can come up with is 2 2 the option of having to disprove that their housing the term "risk." 3 3 MS. BRODSKY: Well, although in the employment policies are, on their face, fair. And it's not uncommon 4 4 context, at least in disability law, you don't -- you to recognize under the -- underact, for example, that a 5 5 can't look at some speculative risk -non-discriminatory practice is not presumed to be 6 MR. KINGSTON: Right. discriminatory where it's neutral on its face. So a 7 7 MS. BRODSKY: -- as a reason for excluding neutral policy, on its face, is necessarily 8 8 someone. So I'm not sure that it's precise, but I get non-discriminatory. This would suggest that these 9 9 your drift. policies that owners now follow are necessarily 10 10 MR. KINGSTON: Yeah. This really has to be discriminatory. And we would excuse that proposition. 11 11 worked on and to provide sufficient clarity for everybody. So we are following this very closely. And 12 12 That's what we're trying. So maybe the term is not we're following the recommendations that have been made to 13 perfect, but what we have in here is less than perfect, 13 date. And as Mr. Kingston's indicated, we have specific 14 14 and that's why we were searching for something to help comments on specific sections. But overall, the direction 15 15 has been placed an unnecessary burden on owners to 16 MR. SMOCK: I'm John Smock. And I'll make my 16 disprove an activity that they do not in fact engage in. 17 17 comments very brief. We worked very closely on this And I'm open to any questions. 1.8 18 issue. And overall, just generalized comments. While MS. SCHUR: I have one question. 19 19 this moves forward, it fails to distinguish appropriately Mr. Kingston, you cited this report from the 20 20 California Department of Corrections. in our judgment between discretion and discrimination, and 21 21 MR. KINGSTON: Uh-huh. places the burden on the owner to deny or to reject the 22 22 suggestion that everything that they do in regard to MS. SCHUR: And I'm wondering if you recall if 23 23 qualifying a tenant or perspective tenant or residency is it had any statistics about seven years as opposed to 24 24 three years. 'Cause the information we have seemed to negatively looked at by the Council as being 25 25 indicate a significant drop in recidivism after that. discriminatory, as opposed to -- and thereby followed.

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1 1 MR. KINGSTON: Yeah. After seven years, it's -related issues. 2 2 the report, which if you would like, I will be more than MS. SCHUR: Sorry. Sarah, is there a way to 3 3 happy to provide to you if you don't have it. It's 4 4 there? sitting right on top of my desk. But after seven years, 5 5 it's not reported. So we don't know that -- so they track 6 6 the data, type of crime, location, and then the rates for you. 7 7 one -- each year, one through seven. And then it just 8 8 drops off. 9 9 MS. SCHUR: Uh-huh. 10 10 MR. KINGSTON: If you would like it, I'm more 11 11 than happy to provide it to you. 12 12 MR. HARRIS: I have a copy of it. 13 13 MR. KINGSTON: Okay. 14 14 MS. SCHUR: Thank you. 15 15 MR. MANDELBAUM: Thank you, both, for your 16 16 comments. 17 17 MS. FEARING: Good morning. My name is Jennifer 18 18 Fearing, I am appearing -- I wish to provide some vears. 19 19 testimony on Item 12. I'm here today on behalf of the 20 20 Humane Society of the United States and the ASPCA, the 21 21 nation's two largest animal protection organizations. And 22 22 I'm here to thank you on our behalf for your efforts today 23 23 in clarifying the State regulations pertaining to requests 24 24 for reasonable accommodation for support animals in 25 housing. 25 Page 34 1 1 MR. MANDELBAUM: We will be taking testimony on real barrier to that. 2 2 those separate housing provisions. Right now this is the 3 3 public comment period for a different set of housing 4 4 5 5 MS. FEARING: Oh, I'm sorry. I was -- I thought 6 6 it was open, a free for all. 7 7 MR. MANDELBAUM: Oh, yeah. Sorry. This is the 8 8 45-day comment for the criminal history --9 9 MS. FEARING: I apologize. I will stick around. 10 10 MS. MANDELBAUM: We look forward to hearing from

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you later in the afternoon.

Anyone else wishing to provide testimony or

MS. STEINHEIMER: Hello. My name is Sarah

comments related to this set of housing regulations?

Steinheimer. I'm regional counsel for housing at Legal

Services of Northern California. We -- Legal Services, if

you're not familiar with us, is the legal aid agency for

23 counties in California. We serve Sacramento to the

income families and individuals and seniors on a wide

healthcare and education. In our housing work, we

represent tenants who are dealing with general

Oregon border. We provide free legal assistance to low

range of legal issues, including housing, public benefits,

landlord/tenant issues, evictions and fair housing issues.

We also assist homeowners dealing with foreclosures and

adjust this so she doesn't have that light in her eyes

MS. STEINHEIMER: Sit back little bit. Thank

Okay. We submitted written comments with Western Center on Law and Poverty and National Housing Law Project, and today I'd really just like to speak on one issue, on the Criminal History Regulations, Article 18. And our written comments do have a number of recommendations regarding those. And I won't speak to those directly. But what I really would like to speak about is the need for this regulation in the work that we have -- that we see in our work. I have been at Legal Services for seven years. And this has been an issue that people come into our office regularly throughout the seven

We have seen, we particularly seen it be in terms of tenant screening policies, a problem for family reunification, for people trying to come back once they've been released from prison or jail, trying to stabilize and reunite with their family, be able to be a contributing member to their family, have the stable housing that they need to find employment. We have seen these policies be a

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In just the last two or three months, we have seen policies from large management companies that have overly restrictive screening policies, in our view. One such policy denies admission to tenant applicants with any felony conviction no matter the nature of the criminal activity or when the activity occurred, and all misdemeanors under -- that occurred within three years, under three years, no matter the nature of that misdemeanor -- of that criminal activity. Another policy we saw just last month prohibits admission to tenant applicants with any felony or any misdemeanor, no matter the nature of the criminal activity or when it occurred. This same management company also prohibits current tenants from having guests with any criminal record.

We think these regulations are key in ensuring that these policies are addressed, and that there's clarification under the law in stopping these discriminatory policies.

Perhaps in one of the most egregious cases we saw recently, we had a client who was denied admission to HUD subsidized housing based on the fact that he had a misdemeanor conviction for loitering. He received that conviction while sleeping in a parking lot when he was homeless. We were -- the housing, we did appeal that

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denial, and he was ultimately allowed into the housing. But initially he was denied on that basis under a blanket ban policy.

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MR. MANDELBAUM: I've got a question for you as it relates to blanket ban versus individual assessment. I think there is some tension there. And there's not uniform agreement on either side of the perspective about what's preferable. Obviously blanket bans are clearer and take out the subjective in a way that perhaps alleviate some intentional discrimination or some different treatment of history, but obviously it -- it's not as nuanced as an individualized assessment.

So in general, when you hear concerns of denied access to housing because of criminal history, I can appreciate the examples you just gave are just incorrect bright line policies. But on a broader level, are you more concerned by people that are misapplying individual assessments in an unfair and unequal way, or bright line policies that aren't picking up enough nuance?

MS. STEINHEIMER: Bright line policies, absolutely. We, at Legal Services, believe in the individualized assessment. We think it is an important way to address this issue. There are so many people with criminal backgrounds. This is a significant barrier to housing. In my experience, it is just not true that

those kinds of violations?

MS. STEINHEIMER: I don't know that I can speak to that. In terms of the blanket ban?

MS. BRODSKY: Yes. Just curious.

MS. STEINHEIMER: Yeah.

 $\mbox{MR.}$  KISH: Do you mean based on the category of the being --

MS. BRODSKY: Correct.

MR. KISH: -- having a criminal conviction?

MS. BRODSKY: Correct.

MS. STEINHEIMER: I mean, I think so. I mean, I don't think that having a criminal conviction necessarily makes you a bad tenant. If that's what you're --

MR. KISH: I just want to respond to Council Member Brodsky. I'm not aware of recent cases that bring that bring a claim of unlawful discrimination under Unrue based on category of having a criminal conviction.

And for those in the room who aren't following, Un rue's list of protected categories is not exclusive. Unrue lists all forms of arbitrary discrimination, so Courts have held that categories like your profession, for example, might be protected under Unrue in certain circumstances.

So in answer to your question, I'm not personally aware of these cases.

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owners are not discriminating on this basis. Our clients, we have so many clients who cannot find housing, or they are living in last resource housing. And what I mean by that is I mean the motels that are in terrible, terrible condition. And they are not the housing that anybody sitting in this room is representing -- you know? They are not the type of housing that are well managed. And so people, in our experience, don't have access to that kind of housing, because of the bright line rules.

I do not agree that an individualized assessment is more discriminatory. I think it's key to ensuring that the policies are not discriminatory based on the elements of a crime in the Penal Code or even the description of the crime. It's important to know what happened, when it happened, what was in that -- what was going on in that person's situation, and what has happened since, and what has that person's -- you know, what -- I think those are very important indicators, and way to address this issue.

You know, we absolutely agree that there's a balance here. And the balance is the accessing of housing, and maintaining safe housing for the people living there. We represent people in both situations. And I think that individualized assessment is what gets you -- achieves both.

MS. BRODSKY: Do you see any remedial course for

MS. BRODSKY: I'm not aware of any cases have
done it, but I'm wondering whether the consideration has
been given to applying Unrue, you know, looking to Unrue
to enforce that.

MS. STEINHEIMER: I think that's all I have.

 $\label{eq:MS.STEINHEIMER: I think that's all I have.} \\ Thank you.$ 

MR. MANDELBAUM: Thank you.

MS. LEAL: Hi. Good morning. My name is Patricia Leal. Last name L-e-a-l. And I am a policy advocate with Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability. We work alongside residents of low income communities of color throughout the San Joaquin valley and Coachella Valley to eliminate barriers to opportunity on the basis of wealth, race, income and place.

We thank the Council for its work to develop these regulations. We believe they will serve as a critical tool in our efforts to ensure that all people enjoy the same access to opportunity regardless of their inclusion in a protected class. We work with Western Center Align Poverty, the National Housing Law Project and other organizations to develop comments that were submitted to you yesterday.

I would like to highlight with my comments the importance of proposed additions in those comments of language to include infrastructure and facilities among

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the resources which cannot be denied to persons on the 2 basis of protected class status as well as language, 3 confirming that land use practices that adversely impact 4 residents' enjoyment of residents' health and environment, 5 quality at their homes and the communities based on the protected class status, also on Section 1212900.

MR. KISH: Hang on one second. I just want to remind you there's a court reporter.

MS. LEAH: Okay.

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MR. KISH: And you're speaking very guickly.

MS. LEAH: Okay. Sorry about that.

And my goal, we'll go ahead and discuss environmental justice language recommendations. But I'll go ahead and highlight my comments. Due to decades of public and private neglect and discriminatory policies, many of the communities we work in lack the basic infrastructure, many already existing communities, and services -- services necessary to support housing and to allow them to thrive. Despite ongoing advocacy that we have done, alongside with residence for years, local jurisdictions have refused allocate the necessary resources to allow communities to obtain these basic infrastructures, all the while facilitating and supporting new development which disproportionately serves higher income and Caucasian residents.

1 Accountability. I'm based in Fresno. So I'd like to 2 highlight the portion of our comments that we contributed 3 to with a comment letter that was submitted yesterday relating to environmental justice. So we are proposing 5 that the regulations include an additional subsection in 6 Section 11098.14.2, as well as a small modification to 7 Subsection B of that provision to address adverse impacts 8 to environmental quality, public health and enjoyment of 9 residents that arise from land-use practices on the basis

of protected class status.

And so specifically the comment letter does not have page numbers. But it's located in about the middle of the comment letter. And we are proposing the addition of a subsection that states that public or private practices that result in the location of toxic, polluting and/or hazardous land uses in a manner that adversely impacts environmental quality, public health and/or enjoyment of residents because of membership in a protected class. And we are also suggesting that Subsection B of that provision, or of that section, replace the term "render infeasible" with "adversely impact enjoyment of residents."

And the reason that we want to highlight this is that we work with many communities of color throughout the Central Valley, and Coachilla Valley, that are among the

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These communities often rely on septic tanks, many of them which are deteriorating and leaking contaminants into the ground water, which residents rely for drinking water.

These examples show why the term "infrastructure" should be included in Subsection D of Section 11098.14.2. There is the reason why we really stress the importance of incorporating the word infrastructure, as it will help already existing communities and new development to ensure that these basic infrastructures are in these local communities that oftentimes do not have the resources or money to dwell on their own. Thank you.

MS. WARNER: Thank you. And I will address the portion of the comments that we submitted.

MR. MANDELBAUM: Can you see if you can turn that mic on, because people are following.

MS. WARNER: Sure.

THE COURT: It's normally like a tap -- is there a -- oh, perfect.

21 MS. WARNER: Sure. Good idea. Okay. So my 22 name is --

23 MR. KISH: I was going to ask.

> MS. WARNER: My name is Ashley Warner. I'm an attorney with Leadership Council for Justice and

most burdened in the State of California by multiple sources of pollution according to the CAL Environmental

screening tool, created by the EPA. They are burdened by

multiple sources of pollution that are located within

5 their community and surround their community and are next

6 door to their homes, to parks, to schools, and that really 7 impact residents on a day-to-day basis -- impact their

public health, impact them in their homes and their ability to enjoy their community.

And so we see this evidenced through data in differential rates of asthma, cardiovascular disease, shorter lifespans. We see it in residents ability to enjoy their homes. We have worked on a variety of land-use issues where residences have -- and residents of color in particular and immigrant communities have to keep the windows shut in their homes to keep out odors from waste water treatment plants located next door to the their houses, rendering facilities and other food processing facilities. Many times these facilities don't have proper permits. If they do have permits, they're often operating in violation of them. And then when residents complain, and they complain for decades about one use in particular, let alone the whole variety of uses

surrounding them, jurisdictions, it falls on deaf ears. There is not the representative to advocate for

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them. And jurisdictions refuse to enforce their own ordinances and State ordinances. So we see the inclusion of language relating to environmental justice as really necessary to ensure request to jurisdiction to enforce the laws fall on deaf ears, and often for decades. So we believe that the inclusion of specific language relating to environment quality that impacts residents' use and enjoyment of their homes and communities is really necessary to ensure that the language and meaning of this section is effectively implemented.

And so -- and I think that's all. But we welcome questions.

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MR. MANDELBAUM: Well, thank you. I especially want to thank you for providing voices from the Central Valley, that we've been seeking a lot in these rulemaking. So I would encourage you to continue on this and in others, because it's definitely a population of the State that we hear less from in these.

MS. WARNER: Excellent. Thank you. MR. MANDELBAUM: Thank you.

MS. BRODSKY: While we're in between, just another question. Is there a reason why we don't use the term "adverse impact," but use the term "discriminatory impact"? The speaker used "adverse impact," and just throwing that out. Don't need an answer now. But just

11098.4.1 on the practices with the discriminatory effect, and requesting that in Subsection B that the individual be removed. And I think the comment was that discriminatory effect only applies to groups. And our Council -- excuse me, in our comments we talk about that. But I actually think that's incorrect. And I think case law supports that, that when you're analyzing whether a particular policy or action has a discriminatory effect, you do look at the group. But when you're looking at a particular case, you are talking about the effect on the individual. So I think that the Council's approach in this is correct and should not be changed.

Regarding the burden-shift and analysis, which is 11098.4.3, the Council -- in many ways, FEHA is more protective than federal law. And so the Council is free to adopt a different burden-shifting. And we support the approach that the Council has taken here. And in terms of putting the burden for the less discriminatory alternative on the housing provider, we actually think that it really makes sense to do this. Because the housing provider is in a much better position to understand how different practices would work. They are experts in providing housing, in selecting tenants, if we're talking about a landlord/tenant relationship. So placing the burden there makes sense, and we really support that approach.

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sort of something to chew on.

MS. HOWARD: Good morning.

MR. MANDELBAUM: Good morning.

MS. HOWARD: So I'm Madeline Howard.

-e-l-i-n-e. Last name is H-o-w-a-r-d. And I'm wit

M-a-d-e-l-i-n-e. Last name is H-o-w-a-r-d. And I'm with Western Center on Law and Poverty.

As has been referenced earlier, we did submit a comment letter yesterday, which hopefully you had an opportunity look at of at least quite detailed comments. So I'm not going to go into the -- took me a very long time if I were to go through all of our comments. But we have tried to propose specific language, because we know that this process is very detailed and very time consuming. So hopefully that will be helpful to the Council.

So before addressing a few specific issues, I just wanted to say thank you very much to the Council for engaging this process. These are tremendously important issues and discriminatory effects in particulars is such an important way of enforcing fair housing laws. So we really applaud this effort and are very glad to be here today and talking about this.

A couple things that I wanted to respond to that were commented on previously. I believe it was someone from the Apartment Association who was commenting on

Most of our comments on this discriminatory effects section are focused on sort of clarifications, and some providing some definitions so that there's no confusion, and I think that everyone would agree that we want to have a clear direction for all sides so that everyone knows what the obligations are. So that's what a lot of our comments are focused on. And I'll leave those details to our written comments.

Let's see. One of the specific areas that we suggested some clarifications on has also been addressed earlier by people from the Apartment Association and the realtors, which is that the burden shifting was a little bit different in the discriminatory effect section, versus criminal record section. And so we suggested some specific language so that those sections would be consistent so as not to create confusion on that issue.

Okay. Regarding the land use in Article 14.

Again, we're very glad that the Council has undertaken this. This is a tremendously important issue, and we had some, again, specific comments on clarifications and definitions. And then I just wanted to highlight a couple things that we recommended.

There's been HUD guidance and some Federal Court Circuit decisions regarding a fact pattern wherein the city, although the city officials themselves do not appear

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to be discriminating or appear to be holding stereotypes, they sort of give in to the racism of the public. And we have cited to specific cases and guidance in our comments, where there's a city decision that's made after a public meeting, where people basically use sort of dog whistle terms and use code words, to talk about "we don't want those people in community." And then the city gives in to that. This is discriminatory. And the Courts have found that, and the HUD guidance talk about that. And we would really suggest putting that in the regulations. That's something that unfortunately happens a lot.

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Okay. So I think I'll move on and briefly speak about the criminal record section. This is Article 18. And I wanted to respond to a couple of comments. We agree with prior comments that were made regarding the usefulness of definitions. And we have suggested some specific definitions for terms, because it seems like that lack of clarity could cause some problems. So hopefully those definitions will be helpful to the Council.

And regarding -- there were some comments made about recidivism, and landlords' concerns about keeping other tenants safe. And as Miss Steinheimer was saying earlier, we, of course, are concerned about everyone living in housing. We represent people who have criminal records, as well as people who do not. And what we --

Homeowner Association Law. So I may be speaking for a group that you don't hear from too much either.

We represent homeowners who live in the States' 52,000 common interest developments, which may be co-ops, town homes, planned unit developments and condos. And as I'm sure the Council is aware, common interest developments, also known as homeowner associations, have a long history of discrimination. In fact it was their original purpose. I myself live in one of the State's oldest associations, founded in 1917 in Oakland, whose stated purpose in its CCNRs was to create an exclusive community, which was code for -- and it's in the CCNRs -no persons of color, Mongols or others may reside in this

Now, as we know, language like that and governing documents like that have been declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. However, the pall and the cloud of discrimination still hangs over common interest developments and expresses itself in many different ways. And what I would like to do -- I hope you're taking comments on this first section, practices with discriminatory effect, at the moment, because I would like to address a very specific business practice of California homeowner associations. We have testified on this issue multiple times here at the Capitol. And that

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community except in the capacity of servant.

what I wanted to point out is that one of the big reasons that people end up being incarcerated again after getting out is that they can't find housing. It's very difficult to sort of live on the right side of the law if you are living outside. And many communities have laws that criminalize homelessness specifically, so you can be arrested for being homeless. And one of the things, the big barriers to get housing is these very restrictive policies, these blanket bans. And so if we didn't have those, some people could get into housing and they wouldn't end up back in jail.

So this is a really important issue, and we're so glad that the Council is addressing it. And we -- and we have some very specific comments about that in terms of we think there should be a shorter time commitment, and we would -- we would suggest three years, as supported by HUD guidance and statistics, as opposed to seven years.

And I think I'll stop there. If there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer them. Okay. Thank you.

MR. MANDELBAUM: Thank you. MS. MURRAY: Good morning.

MR. MANDELBAUM: Good morning.

MS. MURRAY: Thank you for holding this session.

My name is Marjorie Murray. M-a-r-j-o-r-i-e.

M-u-r-r-a-y. I represent the Center for California

is the fact that homeowner associations can foreclose,

take the house when homeowners fall behind on assessments,

3 otherwise known as homeowner dues. There have been huge

4 fights here at the Capitol about what that amount, whether 5

or not there should be any thresholds before the

association can initiate foreclosure. We finally got

7 thresholds established. However -- through legislation --

8 however, in research done by our center, which is based in

9 Oakland, but we serve homeowners statewide, research done

10 by our center, along with Sentinal Fair Housing in

11 Oakland, we established by studying notices of default,

12 that Hispanic households were foreclosed on far out of

13 proportion to their numbers in the census. And we have

14 reason to believe that this still holds true. Because we

get requests for help from homeowners facing foreclosure,

16 from Hispanic and Asian households in particular.

17 So we would recommend, and I'm going make my

18 comment -- my oral comments brief today. We will be 19 submitting written comments within your deadline that you 20 have set. And we will propose language for you to 21 consider. But we would like to see this issue of 22 association debt collection and foreclosure called out as

23 a specific discriminatory practice and business practice 24 and financial practice that needs to be addressed.

The association itself typically does not manage

25

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1	the assessment collection foreclosure process. It farms	1	Council. Thank you very much.
2	out and contracts with special debt collectors who do	2	MR. MANDELBAUM: Thank you.
3	nothing but association assessment debt collection. There	3	Anyone else wishing to provide public comment?
4	is no requirement, either in statute. There is no	4	Hearing none all right. Well, thank you for
5	requirement levied on these entities that they contract	5	
6	with that they provide any of the notices in the language	6	taking the time to provide public comment on the issuance
7		7	of the proposed FEHA housing regulations regarding
8	of the person who is receiving them. So it's no wonder	8	discriminatory effect, discriminatory land use practices
	that we can find accelerated rates of foreclosure against		and the use of criminal history information.
9	mono-lingual households, Asian and Hispanic in particular.	9	Again, as a reminder, we'll accept written
10	So I want to make clear that one of our special	10	comments until 5:00 p.m. today, so get those in at your
11	concerns are the low and low moderate income households	11	earliest convenience. And with that, the meeting portion
12	who manage to become homeowners, particularly through the	12	of the hearing is adjourned or the hearing portion of
13	inclusionary zoning and other first-time home-buyer	13	the meeting is adjourned.
14	programs launched by California cities and counties. And	14	(Off the record at 11:47 a.m.)
15	those homeowners who manage to get a condo or a town home	15	
16	or a unit in a planned unit development very often are	16	
17	mono-lingual households. So we would like to see added to	17	
18	the topics to be examined, the issue of association debt	18	
19	collection, and the issue of language. Because, to us	19	
20	it's self-evident that if you're going to provide	20	
21	protections to those persons in protected classes, they	21	
22	need to be informed of their rights, particularly if	22	
23	you're talking about taking away their home. They need to	23	
24	be informed of their rights in the language that they	24	
25	speak.	25	
	D. 54		D 56
	Page 54		Page 56
1	So I'll stop at that point, and ask if you have	1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	any questions thus far.	2	
3	And we will be elaborating on these points and	3	
4	submitting draft language in our written comments.	4	I, KAREN S. CHALLE, CSR No. 8244, Certified Shorthand
5	MR. MANDELBAUM: Thank you. Appreciate it, Miss	5	Reporter, certify:
6	Murray.	6	That the foregoing proceedings, pages 1 through 9,
7	MS. MURRAY: And you'll be taking the issue of	7	were taken before me at the time and place therein set
8	harassment later?	8	forth;
9	MR. MANDELBAUM: Yes. That will be in that.	9	That the proceedings and all statements made at the
10	MS. MURRAY: Thank you.	10	time of the hearing were recorded stenographically by me
	CRISTOL-DEMAN: Good morning. My name is Liza	11	3 , , ,
11			and were thereafter transcribed:
			and were thereafter transcribed;  That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript
12	Cristol-Deman. L-i-z-a. Last name Cristol-Deman. I've	12	That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript
12 13	Cristol-Deman. L-i-z-a. Last name Cristol-Deman. I've been an attorney with Brancart and Brancart for almost	12 13	That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.
12 13 14	Cristol-Deman. L-i-z-a. Last name Cristol-Deman. I've been an attorney with Brancart and Brancart for almost 18 years. We bring Fair Housing Act cases here in	12 13 14	That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.  I further certify that I am not a relative or
12 13 14 15	Cristol-Deman. L-i-z-a. Last name Cristol-Deman. I've been an attorney with Brancart and Brancart for almost 18 years. We bring Fair Housing Act cases here in California, as well as nationwide. But the majority of	12 13 14 15	That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.  I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney of the parties, nor financially
12 13 14 15	Cristol-Deman. L-i-z-a. Last name Cristol-Deman. I've been an attorney with Brancart and Brancart for almost 18 years. We bring Fair Housing Act cases here in California, as well as nationwide. But the majority of our practice is here in California. And we rely very much	12 13 14 15	That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.  I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney of the parties, nor financially interested in the action.
12 13 14 15 16	Cristol-Deman. L-i-z-a. Last name Cristol-Deman. I've been an attorney with Brancart and Brancart for almost 18 years. We bring Fair Housing Act cases here in California, as well as nationwide. But the majority of our practice is here in California. And we rely very much on this Council and the Department of Fair Employment and	12 13 14 15 16 17	That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.  I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney of the parties, nor financially interested in the action.  I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of
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12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Cristol-Deman. L-i-z-a. Last name Cristol-Deman. I've been an attorney with Brancart and Brancart for almost 18 years. We bring Fair Housing Act cases here in California, as well as nationwide. But the majority of our practice is here in California. And we rely very much on this Council and the Department of Fair Employment and Housing to enforce our clients' rights. So thank you very much for this important work that each of you is doing.  I'll be brief. I want to just express my support and express our firm support here on the record for the comments letter that was submitted by the Western Center on Law and Poverty. We support the work they do,	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.  I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney of the parties, nor financially interested in the action.  I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of California that the foregoing is true and correct.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Cristol-Deman. L-i-z-a. Last name Cristol-Deman. I've been an attorney with Brancart and Brancart for almost 18 years. We bring Fair Housing Act cases here in California, as well as nationwide. But the majority of our practice is here in California. And we rely very much on this Council and the Department of Fair Employment and Housing to enforce our clients' rights. So thank you very much for this important work that each of you is doing.  I'll be brief. I want to just express my support and express our firm support here on the record for the comments letter that was submitted by the Western Center on Law and Poverty. We support the work they do, and we support the comments and suggestions that they have	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.  I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney of the parties, nor financially interested in the action.  I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of California that the foregoing is true and correct.  Dated this 10th day of April, 2017.
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