

We Got Your Back Pledge

As tenants of _____, we the undersigned pledge to defend each other against any threat to our ability to stay in our homes through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The response to the pandemic has resulted in a loss of income for many tenants and, with it, the ability to pay rent. Flattening the curve of this pandemic and promoting public health should be everyone's priority. Threatening eviction of tenants during or following the pandemic undermines this effort. An adequate response to this crisis means keeping people in their homes, confident that losses of income will not lead to harassment or eviction.

Thus we pledge to organize with our fellow tenants in order to make at least two general demands of our landlord. First, suspend rent now for (all tenants or for specific tenants). We request that _____ immediately, in writing, suspend our rent, pending livable wages and good health. Second, rent forgiveness. We demand that _____ immediately, in writing, commit to forgive all rent for the suspension period. Rent must be forgiven to fully prevent harassment, retaliation, or eviction as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

A threat to any of us will be taken as a threat to all of us. We will take collective action, including and up to the collective withholding of rent, should our landlord threaten the housing security of any of us.

In this spirit, we the undersigned agree to forming a tenant council and to organizing our neighbors to join us. We got your back, you got ours.

Signed,

[this is a draft of a landlord notification letter]

Dear “Landlord,”

We, the tenants of _____, pledge to defend each other against any threat to our ability to stay in our homes through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The response to the pandemic has resulted in a loss of income for many tenants and, with it, the ability to pay rent as agreed upon in our leases.

Flattening the curve of this pandemic and promoting public health should be everyone’s priority. The threat or execution of eviction during this crisis plays no part in this effort.

A threat to any of us will be taken as a threat to all of us. We intend to take collective action, including and up to the collective withholding of rent, should our landlord threaten the housing security of any of us.

Signed,

XYZ Tenants Council

