



**For Immediate Release**

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**Supervisor Heinz has issued the following statement about a decision from the Pima County Board of Supervisors to rescind expanded eviction protections:**

I deeply regret the decision the Pima County Board of Supervisors took today to rescind our enhanced eviction moratorium, which built on the CDC's nationwide eviction moratorium as a public health measure, and which my colleagues on the board joined me in passing 4-1 two weeks ago.

The CDC's eviction moratorium prohibits residential evictions due to nonpayment of rent through March 31, so long as the tenant attests that they have tried to access rental assistance through the government and are using their best efforts to make some kind of rent payment to the best of their ability, considering other bills. In Pima County, we took the important step to expand this protection to include evictions due to "breach of contract," which some landlords are using as a way to get around the CDC's moratorium. Prior to the pandemic, 6 percent of eviction orders in Pima County were attributed to "material breach of contract." That number now stands at 21 percent. People haven't just become three times more likely to not trim their hedges, or three times more likely to not report a pet. All that's changed is that people are suffering economically and can't pay their rent.

The measure I proposed – and that we passed – came after hearing directly from the constables charged with enforcing evictions, who told me that the CDC eviction moratorium does not go far enough and that this "breach of contract" loophole is being regularly exploited, placing people in our community at risk.

The action my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors took today puts some of the most vulnerable people and families in our community at risk of losing their housing and needing to move into shelters or other congregate living – precisely what the CDC is trying to help communities avoid during the public health crisis.

Meanwhile, the County convened all stakeholders in an Eviction and Homelessness Prevention Task Force last year, to specifically address the coming eviction crisis, help prevent evictions, mitigate the consequences of housing insecurity, and increase affordable housing in our community. I applaud this effort and support the Task Force's sensible recommendations. Specifically, in the short term, I hope the County will do everything in its power to make sure that landlords and tenants know how to access the



emergency rent relief money authorized by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act signed at the end of December, and that we will not leave any stone unturned in helping tenants in crisis understand and exercise their rights.

The Board will reconsider the enhanced eviction moratorium at our next meeting, on Tuesday, March 2, after hearing public input. I urge members of the community - including those facing eviction or housing insecurity - to make your voices heard. You can send your comments to all Board Members by emailing [COB\\_Mail@pima.gov](mailto:COB_Mail@pima.gov).