



For Immediate Release

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**Supervisor Heinz has issued the following statement about expansion of
eviction moratorium in Pima County:**

Today the Pima County Board of Supervisors took an important step to expand protections for renters in our community during the coronavirus pandemic. The measure will build on the CDC's extension through March 31st of a moratorium on residential evictions due to nonpayment of rent because of the pandemic's economic toll on families.

That moratorium has and will continue to provide much needed relief to members of our community who are unable to make rent payments due to the economic devastation that the pandemic has wrought.

However the CDC order contains a loophole, and unfortunately, some bad actors in the community have exploited that loophole, claiming "breach of contract" and moving forward with evictions for what amounts to no more than inability to pay the full rent.

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.

I applaud my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors who joined me to close this loophole in the eviction moratorium. This action will help keep people in their homes during this public health crisis, and stave off a homelessness crisis in Pima County.