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ONE PEOPLE . . . ONE VOICE

The Honorable Andy Beshear
Governor of Kentucky
700 Capitol Avenue, Ste. 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

March 18, 2020

Dear Governor Andy Beshear,

Thank you for your leadership and continued dedication to keep all Kentuckians informed through your daily press conferences. They've been a beacon of hope and encouragement for all of us to keep pressing forward to do what is right for humanity while standing together in solidarity.

Per your announcement this past Monday March 16 in regards to waiving the waiting period for unemployment insurance, citizens are better prepared for potential loss of income that COVID-19 has placed in our communities. Great efforts have been made to reduce public gatherings along with all the closures to help mitigate the risk of exposure and spread of the virus, which is crucial in the fight against COVID-19.

According to [census.gov](https://www.census.gov), Hopkinsville's average median income is less than \$38,000, with over 50% of our housing stock as rental units. Data also shows that about 23% of our population is in poverty ([Census.gov/Hopkinsville data](https://www.census.gov)).

President Trump during a live press conference today, announced FEMA to level 1 nationally and HUD will suspend foreclosures and evictions until the end of April.

We ask that you issue a moratorium on residential evictions, foreclosures and a halt to utility shut-offs related to financial impacts caused by COVID-19. Executive order will help to prevent any Kentuckian from being evicted due to loss of income related to a business closure, loss of hours or wages, layoffs, or out-of-pocket medical costs and quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Water and power utilities should halt all shutoff of services for delinquent payments and waive late fees, reconnection fees and interests on accounts. Utility customers should provide documentation or other objective information that they cannot pay for utility service due to COVID-19 impact.

Tenants should provide documentation or other objective information that they cannot pay rent due to COVID-19 impact. Allow tenants up to 6 months after the termination of the emergency declaration to repay any back due rent, mortgage and utility bills.

We ask that this order remain in effect until the federal, state and/or local emergency is lifted at any point; then the moratorium will cease to be in effect.

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Preventing evictions and utility shutoffs during these times will help to reduce the spread of this virus in the most vulnerable populations and providing the people of Kentucky a peace of mind that loss of income won't impact access to essential life services.

We implore your office to help enact a temporary moratorium for our citizens. Let's work together to get through this world health emergency as **#TeamKentucky** by continuing to take bold and aggressive actions to protect the citizens of Kentucky.

Idalia Luna
Executive Director
Hopkinsville Human Rights Commission
715 S. Virginia Street
Hopkinsville, KY 42240
270-887-4010
Email: hrc@hopkinsvilleky.us

