



WALTHAM HOUSING RIGHTS NOTIFICATION ORDINANCE

Waltham residents are working for a local Housing Rights Notification Ordinance modeled after the ordinances passed in Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston. We are calling on the Waltham City Council to enact policies that provide residents with information on community resources for rental/mortgage assistance and legal advocacy, and other preventative resources.

- **We are asking for the Waltham City Council to pass this Ordinance in order to keep our community well-informed and prevent issues like eviction or homelessness. Compiling this information into a list and keeping it up to date, as well as making it widely available to the public, is vital.**
- **We ask that the Tenant Rights Notification Ordinance be passed with the requirement that landlords/homeowners provide this information list at the beginning of a new lease to their tenant and if necessary, when an eviction order is presented.**

Will this proposed ordinance be a burden on Waltham landlords?

No. The resource list that landlords need to provide is already developed by community members, the landlord will NOT need to make their own list. The landlord will simply need to provide their tenant with a copy of it when serving an eviction notice.

How will this ordinance help Waltham landlords and tenants?

Landlords will have a better chance of receiving delayed or outstanding rental payments if tenants are aware of the resources and groups they can turn to when they are in a time of financial crisis.

Will this proposed ordinance unnecessarily delay evictions?

No. This resource list will inform a tenant of how to get help for late rent or utilities and how to get help if they need to move. This ordinance will not place any limitation on the option of a landlord to evict a tenant through the court system.

Who will enforce this ordinance?

It will be up to the City of Waltham to decide which agency or department would enforce this ordinance.

Will fines be imposed on Landlords that don't comply?

In other towns who have passed the ordinance, very few if any fines have been issued. The ordinance has been used as an information tool to educate landlords and tenants on available resources.

For more information contact Genoveva at genoveva@watchcdc.org or 781-296-7509 or visit www.watchcdc.org/walthamtenantrightsnotificationact/