



1615 New Hampshire Avenue NW Floor 3
Washington, DC 20009
202.626.0099

dcrealtors.org

Via Electronic Correspondence

January 18, 2022

District of Columbia Council
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember:

On behalf of the District of Columbia Association of REALTORS® (DCAR), we write to signal our support for Councilmember Lewis George's Foreclosure Moratorium Extension Act; however, from our understanding, Councilmember Bonds will propose an amendment to extend TOPA tolling deadlines, which DCAR is in opposition.

Extending the Foreclosure Moratorium allays an immediate emergency at hand-- this legislation is necessary to safeguard residents. The most recent foreclosure moratorium lapsed on January 5, 2022. The District is in the process of receiving \$50 million in federal aid to assist low- and moderate-income homeowners; but, the program to disburse these funds is not online.

We recognize that, throughout the pandemic, the Council has intended to protect homeowners from foreclosure. Extending the moratorium will ensure that residents continue to have protections while awaiting funding decisions and payments.

Secondly— we ask the Council to withhold furthering TOPA tolling deadlines. While the Omicron variant is a serious concern in our community, we refute the notion that there are insurmountable barriers to tenants and tenant advocates meeting and navigating the rules and procedures surrounding the TOPA process. We are into our junior year of the pandemic, and we've collectively pivoted to virtual platforms and other methods to perform essential functions. There is scant evidence to support the claim that tenants and tenant advocates cannot safely hold meetings.

DCAR respectfully urges the Council to consider passing Councilmember Lewis George's Foreclosure Moratorium Extension Act--without the TOPA tolling amendment. Emergency legislation must be respected for addressing circumstances that demand immediate action when no other alternatives are available.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Daley

Thomas P. Daley

2022 DCAR President