1	RESOLUTION NO.
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3	A RESOLUTION TO STRONGLY URGE OWNERS AND MANAGERS OF
4	<b>RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY TO CEASE CURRENT EVICTION</b>
5	ACTIONS, AND TO DELAY FUTURE EVICTION ACTIONS PENDING A
6	SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF THE
7	<b>COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.</b>
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9	WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson declared a public emergency in
10	Arkansas in Executive Order 20-03 because of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and,
11	WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott, Jr; declared in an Emergency
12	Proclamation that the City of Little Rock, Arkansas ("the City"), faced a serious threat to public health and
13	safety because of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and,
14	WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, Governor Hutchinson declared that because of the COVID-19
15	Pandemic, the entire State of Arkansas was a disaster area as set forth in Executive Order 20-10, and Mayor
16	Scott declared the City pursuant to Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency 20-02; and,
17	WHEREAS, on June 18, 2020, Governor Hutchinson renewed this declaration for the State of
18	Arkansas; and,
19	WHEREAS, there has been significant unemployment as a result of this pandemic, which has resulted
20	in a 10.8% unemployment rate in Arkansas for the month of April 2020, and a 9.5% unemployment rate
21	for the month of May 2020, in Arkansas, which equates to 133,962 unemployed persons in April, and 128,
22	235 unemployed persons in May 2020; and,
23	WHEREAS, Federal Legislation has attempted to help individual and family housing situations with
24	various pandemic support programs, but there are serious issues with eviction from rental residences, and
25	Arkansas does not have a moratorium on such action; and,
26	WHEREAS, because local governments in Arkansas cannot enact any provisions because of COVID-
27	19 which would have an adverse impact upon commerce within the State; and,
28	WHEREAS, the most recent Federal census figures estimate that 43.9% of the residential population
29	in Little Rock – including 61.3% of the female population, and 54.8% of the male population – resides in
30	rental housing; and,
31	WHEREAS, eviction from residential properties during this particular time would create great
32	difficulties not only for these individuals, but for the City, other government assistance groups, and non-
33	governmental assistance groups including faith-based entities; and,

- WHEREAS, safe, decent housing must be considered a primal need of the citizens of Little Rock, and
   a top priority of the Little Rock City Government.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY
  OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

5 Section 1. In the strongest possible terms, the Board of Directors urges that landlords of residential 6 property within the City currently undergoing an eviction action voluntarily dismiss such action until the 7 unemployment percentage within the City falls to levels similar to the 3.5% unemployment figure in 8 February 2020, and definitely until the Arkansas and the Little Rock States of Emergency have been lifted. 9 Section 2. To the same end and in the strongest possible terms, the Board of Directors urges that 10 landlords of residential property within the City not pursue at this time an eviction action, nor charge or 11 assess any late payment fees against any residential renter until the unemployment percentage within the 12 City falls to levels similar to the 3.5% unemployment figure in February 2020, and definitely until the 13 Arkansas and the Little Rock States of Emergency have been lifted.

Section 3. To the extent that a landlord of residential property has any such discretion, that late, or unpaid, rental payments and late fees incurred since the March 11, 2020, Declaration of a State Emergency because of the COVID-19 Pandemic shall not be reported to any credit agency or debt collection agency in order to avoid future economic hardship for renters of residential property adversely impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Section 4. The Board of Directors urges Governor Hutchinson to reconsider the possibility of a Statewide moratorium on eviction actions on residential rental property where the renters are still occupying the property, and a moratorium on the charge of late fees on rental payments, as well as reporting such situations to a credit bureau or debt collection agency of such a situation.

Section 5. The City should work with other entities, including but not limited to the State of Arkansas,
to provide supplemental emergency assistance funds to residential renters who, through no fault of their
own, have been unable to maintain rental payments as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

26 **ADOPTED:** July 7, 2020

27 **ATTEST: APPROVED:** 28 29 30 Susan Langley, City Clerk Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor 31 **APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:** 32 33 34 **Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney** 35 //