1	RESOLUTION NO.		
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3	A RESOLUTION TO STRONGLY URGE OWNERS AND MANAGERS OF		
4	RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY TO CEASE CURRENT EVICTION		
5	ACTIONS, AND TO DELAY FUTURE EVICTION ACTIONS PENDING A		
6	SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF THE		
7	COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.		
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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., issued 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 Mayo		
16	Scott declared the City a disaster area pursuant to Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency 20-02; and,		
17	WHEREAS, on June 18, 2020, Governor Hutchinson renewed this declaration for the State o		
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		
22	128,235 unemployed persons in May 2020; and,		
23	WHEREAS, Section 4024 of the Federal CARES Act, approved by Congress, provides a temporary		
24	moratorium on evictions filings for properties that are rented to tenants with Federal Assistance, and		
25	according to the Congressional Research Service, this action was taken to supplement State and local		
26	measures taken to alleviate the economic and health consequences of tenant displacement during the		
27	COVID-19 Pandemic; and,		
28	WHEREAS, because local governments in Arkansas cannot enact any provisions because of COVID-		
29	19 which would have an adverse impact upon commerce within the State; and,		
30	WHEREAS, the most recent Federal census figures estimate that 43.9% of the residential population		
31	in Little Rock - including 61.3% of the female population, and 54.8% of the male population - resides in		
32	rental housing; and,		
33	WHEREAS, eviction from residential properties during this particular time would create great		
34	difficulties not only for these individuals, but for the City, other government assistance groups, and non-		

1 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.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY 5 OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

6 Section 1. In the strongest possible terms, the Board of Directors urges that landlords of residential 7 property within the City currently undergoing an eviction action voluntarily dismiss such action until the 8 unemployment percentage within the City falls to levels similar to the 3.5% unemployment figure in 9 February 2020, and definitely until the Arkansas and the Little Rock States of Emergency have been lifted.

10 Section 2. To the same end and in the strongest possible terms, the Board of Directors urges that 11 landlords of residential property within the City not pursue at this time an eviction action, nor charge or 12 assess any late payment fees against any residential renter until the unemployment percentage within the 13 City falls to levels similar to the 3.5% unemployment figure in February 2020, and definitely until the 14 Arkansas and the Little Rock States of Emergency have been lifted.

15 Section 3. To the extent that a landlord of residential property has any such discretion, that late, or 16 unpaid, rental payments and late fees incurred since the March 11, 2020, Declaration of a State Emergency 17 because of the COVID-19 Pandemic shall not be reported to any credit agency or debt collection agency in 18 order to avoid future economic hardship for renters of residential property adversely impacted by the 19 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 the extent the property owner has the discretion not to do so.

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.

Section 6. *Severability.* In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the resolution which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the resolution.

32 Section 7. *Repealer*. All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with 33 the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

34 **ADOPTED:** August 4, 2020

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1	ATTEST:	APPROVED:
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3 4	Susan Langley, City Clerk	Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor
5	APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:	Frank Scott, 51., Mayor
6	MTROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM.	
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8	Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney	
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