

Item # _____

INTRODUCED BY:
Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermúdez
Councilman Josh Michtom

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
City of Hartford, October 25th, 2021

**RESOLUTION FOR RENTAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE SUPPORT
FOR UNITECT IN HARTFORD**

WHEREAS, the City of Hartford seeks to build itself in a way that is livable, equitable, and accessible to all, and

WHEREAS, since March of 2020, the state of Connecticut has been in a declared state of emergency due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,

WHEREAS, in conjunction with extending the federal eviction moratorium through the end of July 2021, the CDC found that evictions substantially contribute to COVID-19 transmission, that state and national vaccination efforts have a slower rate of penetration among the populations most likely to experience eviction, and that allowing additional time for rent relief to reach renters and to further increase vaccination rates could decrease the numbers of likely evictions and avert the potential of COVID-19 resurgence among people who experience eviction, their communities, and other regions of the country affected by the resulting transmission; and

WHEREAS, state and federal funding has been made available for tenants facing eviction through the office of Governor Ned Lamont, the U.S. Treasury, and the Connecticut Department of Housing, so as to reduce evictions and provide relief to tenant families and landlords, and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Housing's *UniteCT* program provides up to \$15,000 rental and up to \$1,500 electricity payment assistance, on behalf of Connecticut households financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS, on June 30th, 2021, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 12D, establishing that an application to *UniteCT* must be submitted by property owners prior to delivering a Notice to Quit for Nonpayment of Rent, which was subsequently extended by Executive Order No. 13 on July 19th, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the City of Hartford works closely with development partners to create housing in our city, and provides support and services through the Department of Development Services and more, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Hartford will ask all current and future housing and development partners to participate in the *UniteCT* program, honor the Governor's Executive

Order No. 12D, as extended by Executive Order No. 13, and submit an application to *UniteCT* prior to evicting a tenant, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Hartford should enter no future partnership or provide any preferential services, including tax abatement programs, to developers that refuse to accept *UniteCT* funds as payment for owed rent or to participate in the *UniteCT* program, and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is the policy of the City of Hartford to oppose housing discrimination based on lawful source of income, and all landlords operating in the City of Hartford are required to abide by Connecticut anti-discrimination law and the Governor's Executive Orders by applying for, accepting, and participating in the funds under the *UniteCT* program, excepting herefrom all landlords operating four housing units or less when seeking to evict for a reason other than non-payment of rent as *UniteCT* does not require such landlords to apply in the first instance, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the passage of this Resolution, shall be shared with all development partners and landlords currently registered with the City of Hartford. In which case, notification will be carried out by any relevant corresponding City of Hartford department that has access to an updated contact list for either partners and/or landlords (i.e.- Tax office, Tax Collector, or Development Services).