ERIC MAR

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Member Board of Supervisors City and County of San Francisco

For Immediate Release, August 17th, 2009

Children & Tenant Organizations Will Rally Monday, August 17 at Noon at City Hall In Support of Sup. Mar's Family Protection Act Legislation Will Be Heard at Supervisors Housing & Land Use Committee at 1 PM

Under proposed legislation, San Francisco households with children will be protected from so-called "owner move in" evictions, when a landlord evicts a tenant in order to move into the tenant's apartment. The prohibition would only apply to multi-unit apartment buildings, where the evicting landlord has a choice of which apartments they could move into. Currently, San Francisco bans such owner move in evictions for tenants who are senior, disabled or catastrophically ill.

On Monday, August 17, at 12 Noon, Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, SOMCAN (South of Market Community Action Network) and St. Peter's Housing Committee will lead a rally in support of the legislation. The rally will take place on the steps of City Hall on the Civic Center Side.

Owner Move-In Evictions (OMI) accounted for over 40% of no fault evictions last year, according to a recent report written by the Office of the Legislative Analyst. Tenant organizations report that 28% of the OMI evictions they have seen this year involve households with children, even though such households make up only 14% of San Francisco. These evictions force families to struggle to seek scarce affordable housing options, often times during their children's school year.

"About half of San Francisco's families with children live in rent controlled apartments," said Chelsea Boilard from Coleman Advocates. "If evicted, these families usually can't afford today's high rents and are forced out of the city."

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, San Francisco is the third most expensive county in the nation for renters. Rent controlled housing, which encompasses roughly 70% of the rental housing stock in San Francisco, is a large contributing factor to maintaining a balanced city. When a rent-controlled unit is vacated voluntarily or through eviction, the landlord can bring the rental property up to current market rate, making these units unaffordable for our working class and low-income families.

"If we want to have San Francisco be children friendly," said Mariana Viturro of St. Peter's Housing Committee, "then we must make sure households with children are not evicted for no fault of their own."

According to the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and their Families, children only account for 14.5% of San Francisco's population. A city with one of the lowest child populations in the nation should be taking the critical steps to prevent the displacement of children and families.

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