

That night, several representatives from the North Valley Property Owners Association and Sierra North Valley Realtors spoke against such an ordinance, but expressed support for a temporary lease termination extension.

Brandi Laffins, president of Sierra North Valley Realtors, advocated for the temporary extension, adding that the market is stabilizing: As of July 2, there were 235 single-family homes for sale, compared with the 50 available 10 days after the fire. Last July, there were 256 on the market.

But that doesn't mean the crisis is over. Other speakers that night shared stories of displaced friends and family members desperately seeking a place to land. Laura Moreno, a local nurse who has lived in Chico for 30 years, said she could not find anything affordable and would be evicted in 30 days.

"Something needs to be done to protect renters from this kind of thing happening," she told the council. "I'm being faced with having to leave a town that I love, and it shouldn't be like that."

Ultimately, the panel did not vote on an eviction for good cause ordinance. While the proposed extension for eviction and lease termination notices would not address all of the issues with the local housing market, it would at least give renters more time to secure a new place, Brown said. The League of Women Voters will host a forum about rental relief policies later this year, which could help the council consider future actions.

"I think tenant rights are at the top of many of our minds on the dais," Brown told the CN&R. "It's just a matter of figuring out what the approach could be."

Singleton said he appreciated the council's decision that night. Had it come sooner, it would have given him more time to plan, he said. "As long as it'll be helping somebody, it'll be worth it," he added.

Renters could still face a challenge when it comes to paying for hefty deposits, even with the longer time frame, he continued, so financial assistance policies—including "something as simple as [landlords] giving a security deposit back early"—could help.

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