

is the position of legal counsel for the State of Nevada that existing law already allows cities and counties to pass affordable housing policies such as inclusionary zoning and rent control without approval from the state. That's because existing law already "authorizes a board of county commissioners or the governing body of an incorporated city to exercise powers necessary or proper to address matters of local concern, whether or not such powers are expressly granted to the board or governing body." But the legal counsels of some cities and counties disagree.

Senate Bill 398, sponsored by Senator Julia Ratti, is intended to address this. The bill, which has made it through the Senate and is now in the Assembly Government Affairs committee, would amend state statutes to specifically include affordable housing as a matter of local concern. Asked for the city's position on whether this clarifying language is necessary, Director of the Office of Policy and Strategy Dylan Shaver made the following statement:

"The City of Reno supports any legislation that enhances or clarifies our ability and authority to provide service to our Reno

family. Affordable housing has hit our city hard, and SB 398 aims to give local governments broader authority to address this policy challenge at the local level. While lawyers can debate about the specific need for legislation like this, the bill itself will bring clarity that this is an issue that cities play a big role in fighting."

Noble said she's hoping SB 398 will pass, though she doesn't think it'll be a magic bullet for the affordable housing crisis. Her new rental unit is smaller and cheaper, and she's thinking about using the money she'll save to eventually put a down payment on a condo. "That might be the way I go—because I don't know if things are going to improve," she said. "Even if this bill does pass, what is it going to be like to get a resolution passed through city council, and what is that going to look like? Are rents going to go down? Are they going to be capped? I don't know what's going to happen."

Learn more about Senate Bill 398 here: bit.ly/2V6TFDF.

"This is just where my friends are, my community."

Brooke Noble
Renter

Right to assemble



On May 7, protestors gathered outside of the Bruce R. Thompson U.S. Courthouse and Federal building at 400 S. Virginia St., carrying signs calling for the release of the unredacted Mueller report and the president's impeachment. The protest comes one day before congress is scheduled to vote on whether Attorney General William Barr should be held in contempt for denying a subpoena to provide the full report.

PHOTO/MATT BIEKER



SCENE

SATURDAY - MAY 11

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THURS MAY 9
7pm-11pm

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8pm-MIDNIGHT

THE INCITERS

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THE INCITERS
May 9 • 7pm-11pm
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Dance floor band

KYLE WILLIAMS
May 12-15 • 6pm-10pm
Singer-songwriter performs soulful acoustic pop

ROSE'S PAWN SHOP
May 16 • 7pm-11pm
May 17-18 • 8pm-Midnight
Americana, folk-rock, bluegrass, alt-country band

MILTON MERLOS
May 19-22 • 6pm-10pm
Spanish guitar with modern elements

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