

(Published in the Tulsa World

_____, 2026)

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TULSA EXPRESSING ITS INTENT TO DEVELOP THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNDING OF AN EVICTION PREVENTION AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, approximately 14,000 eviction actions are filed annually in Tulsa County; and

WHEREAS, Tulsa has historically experienced among the highest eviction rates in the nation, including being ranked eleventh among large cities by Princeton University's Eviction Lab in 2016; and

WHEREAS, eviction can result in significant and long-lasting harm to individuals and families, including loss of income, housing instability, homelessness, barriers to future housing opportunities, adverse educational outcomes, and negative impacts on physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS, housing stability promotes community well-being and can reduce public expenditures associated with homelessness, emergency services, child welfare interventions, and other social services; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that investments in eviction prevention and legal representation programs may generate substantial public savings and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, children affected by eviction are more likely to experience chronic absenteeism and educational disruption; and

WHEREAS, stable tenant-landlord relationships benefit both tenants and property owners by reducing vacancies, minimizing legal and administrative costs, and supporting consistent rental income; and

WHEREAS, educational resources, early dispute resolution programs, and legal representation initiatives are essential program components to achieve stable tenant-landlord relationships as well as community housing and homelessness goals; and

WHEREAS, access to legal representation in eviction proceedings has been shown to improve outcomes, increase housing stability, and promote the fair administration of justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF TULSA, OKLAHOMA:

Section 1. Intent to Develop the Establishment of a Program. The City of Tulsa hereby expresses its intent to develop and pursue funding to establish and sustain an Eviction Prevention and Legal Representation Program for City of Tulsa residents. The Program could include legal assistance for eligible landlords and tenants involved in or at risk for eviction proceedings, subject to provisions outlined herein, and may also provide other related referrals or services such as education, resource referral, early settlement, and/or dispute resolution services.

Section 2. Funding Goal and Partnership Model. In conjunction with private investments, the City intends to pursue funding for program support, administration, and/or outcome tracking sufficient for a multi-year commitment, subject to future appropriations and available funding sources. In structuring the funding model, the City intends for public funding sources identified for legal assistance to focus on covering services for landlords and tenants with extenuating circumstances such as a sudden medical event, disaster or similar hardship, tenants facing substandard housing conditions, and other similar factors. The intention for representation is to resolve genuine hardships like these, not solely a resident's inability to pay.

Section 3. Program Development. The City intends for the Mayor to designate a department to explore, in consultation with City Councilors, a public-private partnership model potentially including philanthropic, corporate, or other governmental bridge funding during program development, with the objective of establishing a sustainable long-term funding structure. The department shall engage landlords (from multi-family to single family), tenants, professional associations, and service providers in the program development process. After engagement, and once the program is further developed, the department will issue a report simultaneously to the Mayor, Council, and stakeholders, from which the City of Tulsa may choose to take actions and make budget appropriations as outlined herein.

Section 4. Service Providers. The City intends for Program funds to be distributed through a competitive procurement or request-for-proposals (RFP) process in accordance with applicable laws and City policies. For legal assistance and/or mediation services, eligible service providers should include nonprofit legal services organizations employing or coordinating attorneys licensed to practice law in Oklahoma and qualified to provide representation in eviction proceedings. To the extent practicable, multiple service providers should be engaged to reduce conflicts of interest and maximize access to services.

Section 5. Eligibility Guidelines. The City of Tulsa shall develop Program criteria that at a minimum shall provide eligibility criteria for the following areas, all as defined through the Program Development process as outlined in Section 3:

- A. income qualifications appropriately aligned with the service;
- B. priority consideration for households with school-aged children or other vulnerable populations; and

C. such additional criteria, priorities, and capacity-based limitations as may be established through program guidelines.

ADOPTED by the Council: _____.
Date

Chair of the Council

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma: _____,
Date
at _____.
Time

Monroe Nichols IV

(Seal)

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED:

City Attorney