

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Racine Elected Officials Call on County Sheriff to Respect Federal Eviction Moratorium

Racine County one of many included in the moratorium based on high COVID-19 transmission rates

CITY OF RACINE - On Tuesday of this week, President Joe Biden and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a <u>new order temporarily halting many evictions</u> in counties with heightened levels of COVID-19 community transmission. Due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 in our community, including cases of the Delta variant, Racine County is included in this temporary eviction moratorium, as homeless individuals are at a greater risk of contracting COVID-19. State Representative Greta Neubauer (D-Racine), Mayor Cory Mason, and Common Council President John Tate II issued the following statement in response:

"Our community must come together to stop the spread of COVID-19. Mass evictions would likely lead to increased spread of COVID-19 in our community, as people experiencing housing insecurity face a greater risk of contracting COVID-19. An eviction wave would likely have a strong negative impact on our ability to control the virus and continue our recovery in Racine. We will continue to do our part to support our community's health and safety, and hope that all branches of government choose to do the same."

"The Racine County Sheriff's Department has stated that they will continue to carry out evictions if orders are approved by a judge. We hope and expect that Racine's Circuit Court judges and law enforcement agencies will abide by the order, which carries the force of law, and honor the federal eviction moratorium for any and all residents who qualify for protection."

While the federal eviction moratorium would prevent many evictions in Racine County, residents must proactively complete a CDC COVID Eviction Declaration and provide it to their landlord. The Declaration form and additional information regarding the eviction moratorium are available at this link: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-eviction-declaration.html.

Residents of Racine County who are at risk of eviction are strongly encouraged to apply for the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance (WERA) program through the Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency at https://www.rkcaa.org/wera or contact Racine County's Here to Help program at 262-638-6400 for access to other rental assistance, including funds provided by the City of Racine.

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