

## For immediate release

Media Contact: Ania Czarnecka Ward for Austin Apartment Association <u>ACzarnecka@wardcc.com</u> 713-351-9165

## Austin Apartment Association Assists Renters with Renter Roadmap to Exit Eviction

**(Austin, TX – June 8, 2021)** <u>Austin Apartment Association</u> (AAA) today issued a Renters Roadmap to help renters who are behind on their rent work together with their rental housing providers in an effort to avoid eviction. The Roadmap for Renters can be found <u>here</u>.

Depending on a renter's address, number of months rent is in arrears, and the monthly rental rate, renters may face different scenarios when navigating their path to avoid eviction, following June 1 expiry of eviction moratoria in the Austin area. The AAA Renter Roadmap helps renters better understand how current eviction orders and ordinances affect them, and how to navigate their individual scenario to take the nearest "exit" opportunity to avoid eviction.

"Keeping up with all the rules and requirements of various rental assistance programs and eviction moratoriums can be overwhelming for renters and property managers alike," said Emily Blair, Austin Apartment Association. "The Austin Apartment Association Roadmap for Renters provides renters and their property managers a tool to work together to apply for rental aid that can help keep residents in their homes, and keep property owners able to maintain the revenues needed for proper staffing and maintenance. It's a win-win that begins with communication."

COVID-19 had significant impact on housing -- for renters, rental housing providers and the larger Austin community. Property owners have invested significantly in training property managers and support staff on the rules and requirements and have been working diligently with their residents to pursue every available rental assistance remedy available to them, including the Texas Rent Relief program, as well as City of Austin and Travis County rent relief programs. While many of these programs allow landlords to apply on behalf of their residents, they do require residents to submit supporting documentation to be considered and approved.

Blair continued: "Giving a notice to vacate and proceeding with an eviction is always a difficult decision. Apartment owners are in the business of housing people so working together to find a way to keep residents in their homes while ensuring landlords have the financial means to maintain housing affordable and attainable is usually in everyone's best interest. At this stage of the pandemic, after many other preventive actions such as payment plans, rent assistance applications, notices of proposed evictions, etc. have taken place, eviction proceedings are the final action available to landlords, many of whom are small business owners. If we are to rise together out of this pandemic, we must first work together to meet the needs of all." With eviction moratoria expiring, AAA encourages residents still behind on their rent to communicate with their property managers now, so they can work together to pursue rental assistance and exit the road to eviction. The AAA website at www.austinaptassoc.com/renters includes information about some relief and resources available for area renters.

## About the Austin Apartment Association

The Austin Apartment Association was founded in 1964 and is composed of more than 1,000 diverse businesses that own, manage and service more than 260,000 rental homes in the Greater Austin Area. Our mission is to advance the expertise and collective community impact of the rental housing industry. To learn more about the Austin Apartment Association, please visit our website at <u>https://www.austinaptassoc.com/</u>.

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