

The New York City Council

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: Int 2107-2020 Version: * Name: Requiring a clause in commercial leases that

obligates the parties to engage in good faith

negotiations during certain states of emergency.

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Title: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring a clause

in commercial leases that obligates the parties to engage in good faith negotiations during certain

states of emergency.

Sponsors: Justin L. Brannan, Ben Kallos

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October 15, 2020

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
10/15/2020	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
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12/31/2021	*	City Council	Filed (End of Session)	

Int. No. 2107

By Council Members Brannan and Kallos

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring a clause in commercial leases that obligates the parties to engage in good faith negotiations during certain states of emergency.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 10 of title 22 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 22-1006 to read as follows:

§ 22-1006 Good faith negotiation clause in commercial leases. a. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Commercial lease. The term "commercial lease" means a lease or other rental agreement to rent a covered property for any period of time.

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Covered property. The term "covered property" means any property or portion of a property (i) that is

lawfully used for buying, selling or otherwise providing goods or services or for other lawful business,

commercial, professional services or manufacturing activities, and (ii) for which a certificate of occupancy

authorizing residential use of such property or portion of a property has not been issued.

State of emergency. The term "state of emergency" means a period of time during which one or both of

the following are in effect: (i) a proclamation issued by the mayor, declaring a local state of emergency

pursuant to section 24 of the executive law or other applicable law; or (ii) an executive order issued by the

governor, declaring a state disaster emergency pursuant to section 28 of the executive law, or other applicable

law, and the city of New York, or some portion thereof, an affected area.

b. Good faith negotiations required. 1. Whenever parties contract for the rental of a covered property,

the commercial lease shall include, at a minimum, a clause obligating the parties to negotiate in good faith

toward a rent concession where the tenant's business is required to close pursuant to an order issued as a result

of a state of emergency. Failure to include such good faith clause in a commercial lease shall not be construed

to abrogate any implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

2. Where parties entered into a commercial lease before the effective date of the local law that added

this section and the tenant's business is required to be closed pursuant to an order issued as a result of a state of

emergency that is in effect on such effective date, the parties shall negotiate in good faith toward a rent

concession.

3. Nothing in this section shall be construed as creating a private right of action.

4. This section does not limit or abrogate any claim or cause of action a person has under common law

or by statute.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

SG

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