

Unlawful Rent Increase Form: City of Santa Barbara – Temporary Rent Freeze & Tenant Protections

This form can be used to notify a landlord of a **rent freeze violation**, to assert the right to stay without increased rent or diminished amenities, or to demand an explanation for any increase that appears to violate the law.

You can send this form directly to your landlord and should keep a copy for your records. **This form is for self-advocacy and education. It is not legal advice and should not be considered as a recommendation that it should be sent in your particular circumstances.**

Tenant Information

Tenant Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Rental Address (Street, Unit #): _____

Move-in Date: _____

Current Monthly Rent You Are Paying: \$ _____

Landlord / Property Manager Information

Landlord or Property Manager Name: _____

Company (if any): _____

Phone or Email: _____

What Happened? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ I received a **Rent increase notice**
- ☐ My rent **increased after February 26, 2026**
- ☐ I have been served an **eviction notice**

Date you received the notice, new lease or date when the change occurred: _____

Previous Rent Amount: \$ _____

New Rent Amount (if any): \$ _____

Describe anything else that changed or that you were told would change (rent, utilities, parking, laundry, repairs, etc.):

The City of Santa Barbara adopted **ORDINANCE NO. 2026-6206**, a **Temporary Rent Increase Moratorium**.

Under this law:

- Landlords **may not increase rent** for covered units after February 26, 2026.
- These protections apply to my unit because it was constructed before February 1995 and there are other tenants living in units on the property.
- I have not been made aware of any covenant or restriction in my lease or on the property that would exempt my property from the Temporary Rent Increase Moratorium.

Based on these protections, rent increases **are not allowed under the current temporary City law**. I am requesting the following (check all that apply):

- ☐ My rent be **remain** to the lawful base rent
- ☐ Written confirmation that my rent will **not increase** during the rent freeze;
- ☐ A written explanation showing how this rent increase or change is legal

Other Request: _____

IF YOU DISAGREE OR BELIEVE THAT THE LAW DOES NOT APPLY TO MY TENANCY, RESPOND IN WRITING WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS.

I am keeping a copy of this form for my records.

Tenant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

I have retained a copy of this form and have copied the Santa Barbara Tenants Union and CAUSE- sbtenantsunion@gmail.com, angeliza@causenow.org, ana@causenow.org

Delivery Receipt

Delivered on _____

Delivered to _____

Address _____

Printed name _____ Signature _____