

# Aspen Daily News

## Mountain Voices speaks against evictions, foreclosures

Mar 24, 2020

Editor:

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing widespread disruption in our community and threatens our economic, physical and mental health. Many organizations are stepping up to support our community. However, there is much fear and uncertainty and the last thing families need to be concerned about is the possibility of eviction or foreclosure.

We at Mountain Voices Project (MVP) applaud officials like Attorney General Phil Weiser, who over the weekend, called for a statewide pause on eviction proceedings, stating, "In this emergency, evicting any Coloradan from their home would exacerbate the public health and economic crisis we are fighting together," and put the decision in the hands of the state's district judges.

We would like to thank Judge James Berkley Boyd, Chief Justice of the 9th Judicial District, for his recent order suspending all hearings but those "concerning public safety." (Judge Boyd's order) However, we wish to urge Judge Boyd to join the courts of Denver, Mesa, Weld, and Boulder Counties to explicitly declare a moratorium on all eviction proceedings during this emergency. This clarification will serve to calm our community.

This effort to maintain our community fabric requires forbearance and sustained goodwill from all involved. As such, MVP urges all landlords to commit to not evict tenants and all lenders to suspend foreclosure proceedings during this pandemic.

MVP is a broad-based organization comprising 28 regional institutions including faith-based, educational, and social-impact organizations. When MVP speaks, it speaks with a voice that represents over 15,000 people. We are building relationships among diverse communities, from Parachute to Aspen, for the common good.

With compassion for those who need it most right now.

Mountain Voices Project, Institutional Leaders

Rob Stein, Roaring Fork School District Superintendent

*"If you don't want it printed, don't let it happen."*

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Father Bert, St. Stephen Catholic Church

Rabbi Emily Segal, Aspen Jewish Congregation

Bertha Lopez, Madres en Acción

Richard Gonzales, Colorado Mountain College

Ross Brooks, Mountain Family Health Centers

Lara Beaulieu, English In Action

Lori Mueller, Youth Zone

Pastor Jeff Carlson, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Jamie Nims, Two Rivers Community School

Michael Hayes, Discover Compass

Pastor Charla Belinski, Snowmass Chapel

Episcopal Partnership of Garfield County

Lindsay Lofaro, Buddy Program

Kyle Crawley, Stepping Stones

Elaine Grossman, Valley Settlement

Cindy Kahn, MANAUS

Pastor Daniel Self, The Orchard

Audrey Hazelton, Glenwood Springs Elementary School

Paul Freeman, Glenwood Springs High School

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Cecilia Rios, La Esperanza de Emily

Reverend Laurie Bushbaum, Two Rivers Unitarian Universalists

Gail Schwartz, Habitat for Humanity Roaring Fork Valley