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FILED

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ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY 
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

ADKT 602

**Comments in the matter of the Amendment of Part 6 of Las Vegas Justice Court Local Rules of Practice
Relating to Summary Eviction**

Nevadans for the Common Good (NCG) is a broad-based community organization with 35 member institutions across the Las Vegas Valley with a constituency of over 100,000 individuals. NCG focuses on identifying, developing, and then advocating for solutions to pressing social and economic issues facing Southern Nevada. Housing issues encompassing both availability of affordable units and tenant protections has been one of our primary issues since our inception in 2012.

NCG identifies issues by talking to people and listening to stories about their needs and concerns. Over the last two years NCG members have heard the stories of hundreds of people in small group settings and through neighborhood walks across the Las Vegas Valley. The majority of stories relate to housing issues with most people expressing a concern about housing availability and/or fear of eviction. From these stories we know that many tenants do not understand the eviction notice they receive or the process in which they must engage in to maintain their tenancy. This places them at a distinct disadvantage in navigating the court system for eviction often leading to long-term housing and economic instability.

Mandating the use of standardized eviction related forms, if user friendly, can potentially increase the number of tenants facing eviction who initiate access to the court system and therefore also safety-net services that can keep them housed. Currently, many tenants receiving an eviction notice don't respond and self-evict or are forced out due to lack of response. Such a system leads to a larger burden on the safety-net and public service system as it is far more costly to shelter than to house, or to address the mental health and public health costs of homelessness.

The ADKTs being considered also allow the court to develop a structure that can make the diversion process function more efficiently. Eviction diversion will refer our most vulnerable community members to county social services that can screen them and direct them to needed services for which they are eligible, all of which can help prevent long-term and costly housing instability.

For these reasons, Nevadans for the Common Good supports the proposed ADKT framework as presented.

Barbara Paulsen
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NEVADANS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

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