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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Modesto Launches Rental Housing Safety Program

MODESTO, CA- Modesto City Council is pleased to announce the launch of its Rental Housing Safety Program, aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of residents in rental properties throughout the city. This innovative program aims to improve the quality of rental housing in Modesto and promote a safe and healthy living environment for all tenants.

The Rental Housing Safety Program, which is set to kick off on September 15, 2023, will require landlords to meet specific safety standards and obtain a safety certification for their rental properties. These standards include fire safety, electrical and plumbing systems integrity, structural soundness, and overall maintenance of the property.

Mayor Sue Zwahlen expressed her enthusiasm for the program, stating, "The Rental Housing Safety Program demonstrates our commitment to the well-being of our residents. We believe that everyone deserves access to safe and livable housing, and this initiative will ensure just that."

To facilitate compliance with the safety standards, the city has established a comprehensive inspection process. A team of qualified inspectors will conduct regular inspections to verify that rental properties meet the required safety criteria. Landlords found to be non-compliant will be provided with a grace period to rectify any issues before facing potential penalties.

Councilmember Eric E. Alvarez, a strong advocate for tenant rights, applauded the initiative, stating, "I am thrilled to see Modesto take proactive steps to address the safety concerns in our rental housing market. The Rental Housing Safety Program will help protect tenants from substandard living conditions and provide them with the peace of mind they deserve."

Alongside ensuring the safety of tenants, the Rental Housing Safety Program aims to enhance communication and transparency between landlords, tenants, and the city. The program will establish a dedicated helpline and online portal where tenants can report safety concerns and access information on their rights as renters.

As part of Modesto's commitment to continuous improvement, the city's enhancements include educational resources for landlords and tenants. "Measure H funding has made this all possible", said Jessica Hill, Director of Community and Economic Development. "This program is now ready for a full launch, now that we've secured the necessary funding to properly support this program."

The Rental Housing Safety Program is a collaborative effort between the City Council, tenant advocacy groups, and various community stakeholders. By working together, Modesto aims to create a thriving and safe rental housing market that benefits both tenants and property owners.

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