

Housing Advocates and Los Angeles Residents Call on Los Angeles City Council to Limit Short-Term Rentals in LA

LOS ANGELES, Calif., March 22, 2017 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – A growing alliance of affordable housing advocates, local neighborhood renters and homeowners, hotel employees and hotel representatives gathered today in front of Los Angeles City Hall to call on City officials to adopt smart regulations for short-term rentals, according to Keep Neighborhoods First.



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Participants urged the City Council to adopt a low limit on the number of days per year a host could rent a unit short-term.

“Regulations must include a cap on the total number of days hosts are permitted to rent short-term. This cap must be low enough as to not economically incentivize landlords to rent short-term instead of long-term,” explained Becky Dennison, Executive Director of Venice Community Housing Corporation. “The current draft has a cap that is much too high. We believe the right number is 60 days per year – and other cities agree.”

Dennison mentioned caps in Santa Monica and Amsterdam of 60 days; as well as 90-day caps recently implemented in San Francisco, New Orleans and London.

Palm Springs enacted a cap of 32 days. The draft ordinance currently being considered in Los Angeles includes a cap of 180 days, or six months out of the year.

The group also expressed strong support for banning any type of short-term rentals in rent-stabilized (RSO) units, arguing that allowing RSO units to be rented short-term will result in significantly more risk for some of our most vulnerable renters than any possible benefit.

“As a longtime tenants’ rights advocate, I can assure you that short-term rental practices has literally put a target on the back of every renter living in RSO housing. Tenants are being evicted and units are being converted to short-term because landlords make MUCH more money renting short-term,” said Larry Gross, Executive Director of Coalition For Economic Survival. “We can no longer allow short-term rental companies to continue to operate practically unchecked. Their practices of taking critically needed affordable rent control units off the market is making our already dire housing situation worse.”

Also on hand were hotel representatives that called on the City to enact regulations built on sound politics, not false budgetary needs. Specifically, the California Hotel and Lodging Association quoted a recent report related to the downfall of cities accepting voluntary taxes from Airbnb and other short-term rental platforms. The voluntary agreements are being questioned all over the nation.

“We’re adding the voice of the state’s hotel industry to the Los Angeles community asking for a city ordinance that ensures a level playing field for those of us in the hotel industry and full transparency from all short-term rental platforms,” said Lynn Mohrfeld, President & CEO California Hotel & Lodging Association.

The City Council is expected to take up the current draft ordinance in coming weeks, beginning with the Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUM).

More information on Keep Neighborhoods First:
<http://www.keepneighborhoodsfirst.org/>.

Venice Community Housing Corporation – <http://www.vchcorp.org/>
Coalition for Economic Survival – <http://www.cesinaction.org/>
California Hotel & Lodging Association – <http://www.calodging.com/>