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Group Calls for Short-Term Rental Regulation after Deadly Shooting at an Airbnb in Inglewood

Major events at SoFi Stadium increase the risks of "party houses" at unregulated short-term rentals.

Inglewood, CA: Better Neighbors LA, a coalition of residents, housing advocates, hospitality workers, and community members calls on the City of Inglewood to regulate short-term rentals after a deadly shooting at an Airbnb that claimed four lives. Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts, Jr. called the shooting the worst act of violence in the city in years.

The shooting occurred at a birthday party at an Airbnb short-term rental in a quiet residential neighborhood less than two miles from the new SoFi Stadium. SoFi Stadium will host the NFL Conference Championship game this weekend as well as the Super Bowl on Feb. 13. SoFi has quickly become the premier stadium venue in Southern California hosting the biggest names in sports and entertainment.

"SoFi Stadium and other developments in Inglewood are transforming the city into a tourist attraction, fueling the growth of short-term rentals. These rentals sometimes run like unregulated hotels or night clubs in the middle of residential neighborhoods, increasing noise, parking, and safety issues for residents. That is what we've tried to prevent in LA by regulating these vacation rentals"—Randy Renick, Better Neighbors LA

The City of Los Angeles has a Home Sharing Ordinance (HSO) that regulates the short-term rentals, like Airbnb, VRBO and others. The City Council passed the HSO in 2018 to address a crisis-level shortage of affordable housing and the negative effects of short-term rentals on neighborhoods and communities. One of the negative effects is the use of short-term rentals to host huge parties, often advertised, where neighbors do not know the hosts or the guests, as was the case in the Inglewood shooting.

"As tourism increases in Inglewood, so does the need for regulations of short-term rentals. Hotels and night clubs are regulated and licensed to protect the safety of guests and the public. We can't have short-term rentals operating as unregulated, unstaffed and uninsured hotels next door to families with young children, putting them at risk. We call on the City of Inglewood to pass short-term rental regulations modeled on Santa Monica's" Kurt Peterson, Co-President, UNITE HERE Local 11

In 2020, <u>Inglewood City Staff recommended to the City Council</u> that they establish short-term rental regulations to "encourage tourism, protect housing stock, and create an enforceable structure to allow licensed short-term rentals in the City of Inglewood." They also proposed regulations that would "address common concerns and issues that arise as a consequence of STR operation."

However, the City Council has taken no action to date to act on proposed regulations, allowing the expansion of the unregulated short-term rental market over the last two years. It is not

surprising that the worst act of violence in years in Inglewood occurred at an unregulated short-term rental that mixes out-of-town guests, large events at nearby attractions, and the lack of protections in commercial areas, like security, bouncers, police, cameras, or other security measures hotels and nightclubs employ.

Better Neighbors calls on the City of Inglewood to enact strong regulations for short-term rentals to protect neighborhoods, guests, and the supply of affordable housing for all residents of Inglewood.

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Better Neighbors LA is a coalition of Southern California hosts, tenants, housing activists, hotel workers, and community members. We run a <u>website and hotline</u> that enables residents and neighbors to report short-term rentals that violate the city's Home Sharing Ordinance (HSO) and produce <u>monthly Enforcement Reports</u> on the status of HSO enforcement along with recommendations on how City Planning can increase enforcement, close loopholes, and hold platforms accountable for illegal listings.