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Press Contact: Sara Flocks | 510-332-1996 | [sflocks@betterneighborsla.org](mailto:sflocks@betterneighborsla.org) | Better Neighbors LA

**Better Neighbors LA Files Amicus Letter to Judge Carter’s  
Court Order on Homelessness**  
**Group Presents a Cost-Efficient Measure to Increase Housing Availability**  
*Enforce the Home Sharing Ordinance & immediately provide affordable housing*

**Los Angeles, CA:** Today Better Neighbors LA filed an [amicus letter](#) in the *LA Alliance for Human Rights et al v. City of Los Angeles* litigation overseen by United State District Court Judge David O. Carter. et al. In the letter, Better Neighbors provides the Court with an achievable and affordable tactic to address the City’s homeless crisis---enforce the City’s existing Home Sharing Ordinance and return thousands of housing units to the market.

The homelessness crisis in Los Angeles is worsening by the day. A [federal report estimates](#) that from 2019 to 2020, the homeless population in Los Angeles grew 13 percent—nearly double the state increase. According to a 2018 Zillow study, *if housing affordability in Los Angeles “worsens by 2 percentage points—if renters are required to spend 51 percent of their income on a typical apartment, up from 49 percent at the time of this analysis—the number of homeless is likely to rise by an additional 4,227 people, or 6 percent* above estimated 2017 levels.”

Housing accessibility and affordability are critical to addressing homelessness. As the court stated, “while long-term housing is vital, its construction is long-term.” Los Angeles passed the Home Sharing Ordinance in 2018 to address the shortage of affordable housing and the negative effects of short-term rentals on the long-term housing market. The Ordinance strictly limits home sharing to primary residences and prohibits Rent Stabilization Ordinance (“rent Controlled”) housing from being used for short-term rentals.

Better Neighbors’ [letter](#) argues that robust enforcement of the HSO is a cost-effective and immediate measure to address housing and homelessness. However, enforcement of the Ordinance has been gravely deficient. Less than 60% of short-term rentals in Los Angeles are compliant with the HSO according to data from city contractor Host Compliance.

The City estimates that between **6,000 to 10,000 housing units** have been removed from the traditional rental market and converted by their owners to short-term rentals. This represents several years’ worth of affordable housing construction in Los Angeles.

Enhanced enforcement of the HSO addresses the Court’s specific concern with the slow pace of long-term housing construction by offering a targeted solution that preserves the existing stock of affordable housing and returns already converted units to the market, increasing the amount of housing available to Los Angeles residents today.

Better Neighbors LA operates a [website and hotline](#) that enables residents and neighbors to report short-term rentals that violate the city's Home Sharing Ordinance. Along with neighborhood advocates, Better Neighbors will continue door-to-door literature drops around alleged illegal short-term rentals until the City increases enforcement of the Home Sharing Ordinance.

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Better Neighbors LA is a coalition of Southern California hosts, tenants, housing activists, hotel workers, and community members. We believe the best way to support true sharing for hosts and guests is also the best way to protect jobs and the community: by curbing illegal commercial activity in the short-term rental industry.