

PRESS RELEASE: 09/17/2021

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Housing Groups Call on U.S District Judge Carter to Protect Housing and Enforce City’s Home Sharing Ordinance

Release letter signed by key housing groups opposing the Vacation Rental Ordinance

Los Angeles, CA: Housing groups Strategic Action for a Just Economy (SAJE), Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), Venice Community Housing, UNITE HERE Local 11, and Better Neighbors Los Angeles called on Honorable U.S District Judge Carter to intervene and help enforce LA’s Home Sharing ordinance and oppose the proposed Vacation Rental Loophole.

“Hospitality workers like myself have been some of the hardest hit by this pandemic, we deserve housing, not more vacation rental units.” said Roxana Lazo member of UNITE HERE Local 11. “We are here asking the Honorable Judge Carter to step in and do what our city leaders have failed to do, enforce the home sharing ordinance and protect our housing.”

[Housing groups also released and delivered a letter opposing the Vacation Rental Loophole](#), which would allow short-term rentals in non-primary residences, and they argue will further exacerbate our current housing crisis.

“We have a serious shortage of affordable housing in Los Angeles, and with the pandemic-fueled threat of widespread evictions the situation is more dire than ever. While no time is a good time, now is the worst possible time to be contemplating the removal of more housing from the market. It is ironic that as public agencies and non-profits desperately scramble to help people get rental assistance and avoid eviction, our elected officials are voting on a measure that could exacerbate the housing crisis even further, solely to provide the affluent with more means to increase their wealth,” said Cynthia Strathmann, Executive Director SAJE (Strategic Actions for a Just Economy).

In August, [Better Neighbors Los Angeles, housing activists and residents sent a letter to Judge Carter](#) offering a solution to address the city’s housing crisis exacerbated by the growth of illegal short term rentals. Activists hope that Judge Carter’s past efforts to [commandeer the City of LA on the issue of homelessness](#) will help call attention to the need for enforcement of the home sharing ordinance.

“The City of Los Angeles cannot afford to pass up any opportunity to remediate the on-going housing and homelessness crisis. That is why BNLA calls on the City to enforce the Home Sharing Ordinance to maintain housing units for tenants and not tourists,” said Nancy Hanna from Better Neighbors Los Angeles.

Los Angeles passed the Home Sharing Ordinance in 2018 to address an extreme shortage of affordable housing and the negative effects of short-term rentals on long-term housing markets. The Ordinance strictly limits home sharing to primary residences and requires “hosts” of short-term rentals to register for a permit. It also prohibits “host platforms” from processing bookings for listings without a valid City Home Sharing registration number.

[Earlier this month](#), four of the top candidates running for Los Angeles City Attorney in 2022 came together to demand the current City Attorney and City of LA do more to enforce the Home Sharing Ordinance and vote no on a Vacation Rental Loophole that would take away up to 14,000 housing units off the housing market and blur the strongest enforcement line in the Home Sharing Ordinance – the primary residence requirement.

If passed, it would allow commercial hosts to remove a second home from the housing market and convert it to a short-term rental. The loophole would so complicate the investigation process as to make it nearly impossible for the City to determine if a short-term rental is listed illegally. The Vacation Rental Loophole is expected to come to a council vote in the coming weeks.

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UNITE HERE Local 11 is a labor union representing over 32,000 hospitality workers in Southern California and Arizona who work in hotels, restaurants, universities, stadiums, sport arenas, convention centers, and airports.