

Press Advisory: December 2, 2021

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Park La Brea Residents Hold Outreach Event to Raise Awareness of Alleged Illegal Short-Term Rentals & Sublets

Group raises questions why units are listed on platforms like AirBnB, VRBO & Booking.Com when short-term rentals under 30-days and sublets of any length are prohibited

Who: Members of the Park La Brea Residents Association & Better Neighbors LA

What: Outreach event by Park La Brea residents to hand out window & lawn signs

When: December 2 from 11am to 1pm

Where: Curson Café, 475 S Curson Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Los Angeles, CA: Today, Better Neighbors LA and Park La Brea residents will hold an outreach and education event to gather more information about multiple alleged illegal short-term rentals in the complex. The residents and advocates continue to press the City of Los Angeles to protect affordable housing from conversion to short-term rentals. These illegal short-term rentals effectively turn housing into illegal hotels exacerbating the City's housing crisis.

Better Neighbors filed a complaint on behalf of concerned residents regarding units at Park La Brea listed on online platforms despite the Home Sharing Ordinance prohibition on listing rent stabilized units as short-term rentals.

Short-term rentals of less than 30 days in rent-stabilized units are prohibited under the City's Home Sharing Ordinance. Park La Brea additionally prohibits sublets of units by tenants of more than 30 days. Residents have found listings for both short- and long-term rentals on online platforms, raising the question of how many of the short-term rentals may also be in violation of the Home Sharing Ordinance, in addition to violating lease terms.

Park La Brea is a beloved part of Los Angeles' history as the oldest and largest rent-stabilized housing development west of the Mississippi River. The construction of Park La Brea in the 1940's attempted to address a post-war affordable housing shortage, creating over 4,000 units. Now, residents allege housing is being converted to vacation rentals in violation of the law.

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 (HSO). Along with neighborhood advocates, Better Neighbors will resume door-to-door literature drops around alleged illegal short-term rentals until the City increases enforcement of the HSO.

Los Angeles passed the Home Sharing Ordinance in 2018 to address a crisis-level shortage of affordable housing and the negative effects of short-term rentals on neighborhoods and communities. The Ordinance 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 and from using housing units under the Rent Stabilization Ordinance as short-term rentals.

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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, housing, and communities: by curbing illegal commercial activity in the short-term rental industry.