

To: Housing Committee, Los Angeles City Council

May 8, 2019

Harassment is anything that disturbs a person's well-being. Harassment is the most hazardous action landlords and their employees use against tenants before and after an eviction attempt. Harassment consist verbal insults, aggressive abusive actions, and physical aggression toward tenants and toward tenants' belongings. Harassment causes victims to suffer physical, emotional, social, and psychological distress and pain.

Because I pay inexpensive rent, my landlord decided that I was supposed to endure bullying, mistreatments, and my health being damaged in my home - the place I pay to live in peace.

In 2015, I complained about by conduct harmful to health and well-being by a new neighbor. Shortly after that, my landlord served me a 60 day notice to move out. Since then, the landlord has tried to evict me three times without any legal justification. Thanks to the Rent Stabilization Ordinance, he has failed in his attempts.

Since 2015, before and after his efforts to evict me, I have been harassed not only by my landlord, but also by the other residents that he encouraged to join him in making my life a hell. The most demanding and horrible action my landlord took attempting to evict me for placing my shoes in front of my door and for keeping two little plants by my unit stairs. I have had the plants by my unit stairs since I moved in.

I have been harassed by my landlord and the other residents in the premises in the following ways:

- Destruction of items, such as constantly throwing my shoes in the trash container, scratching and vandalizing my car
- Vandalizing my unit front door and stealing my decorations.
- Landlord inventing stories and calling the police against me
- False causations of noise making such as footsteps, vacuum, and so on
- Other residents hitting me physically and landlord not saying anything to them
- Other resident spitting in my face and the landlord lying to defend them

- Forcing physical entry into my unit with no proper notice
- Sexual harassment, such as sudden touching/slapping on the side of my leg
- Landlord spraying me with water from a hose
- Destruction of personal plants by the landlord
- Repeated verbal warnings about items in common areas
- Placement of nails in my parking space
- I have stepped on nails that are thrown around my unit stairs, the landlord did not respond when I informed him of the damage to my foot.
- Landlord refusing to make repairs, including a heater that has been broken for over a year
- Constant suggestions of moving out

We, the tenants, suffer under this harassment. I urge the council members to please pass a strong Anti-Harassment Ordinance to penalize abusive landlords so we, the working people can live in peace, enjoy our units, be able work to our potential as productive citizens, and to not clog the courts with unjust lawsuits against tenants.

Sincerely,

Carolina Lopez