



Eric (Roderico) Villanueva <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

June 22: Item # 2 / 14-1057-S1

1 message

V Dan <virginiadenadan@gmail.com>
To: Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org

Wed, Jun 22, 2016 at 5:29 AM

Dear Mr. Villanueva,

I am writing concerning the hearing taking place today at 3pm on behalf of many people who live in their cars around and near Echo Park Lake. I myself am not homeless, I'm lucky enough to live in a small apartment owned by a landlord who has not raised my rent in seven years. However, I walk my dog daily and she loves people so I've become friends with many homeless people that live on the streets and in their cars in and around Echo Park Lake. These people are good people, I would say about 90% of the people I've met are homeless out of circumstance, some have full time jobs, collect social security, have applied for affordable housing, or are the sole care giver to an elderly parent. To criminalize their circumstances is inhumane and unethical. Many people who live in their cars consider themselves lucky, they are generous to other homeless people by offering a dry place to sleep during a rainy evening. A couple years ago I met a nice lady named Deberoh who escaped an abusive marriage and was living in her mini van with her two dogs, she told me she felt protected in her car at night and was thankful she had it. She was of the lucky few that I've met that got into a halfway house.

Los Angeles has become increasingly unaffordable even for people with full time middle class incomes, how can we expect anyone working at minimum wage to afford \$1500 rent for a studio apartment? I am college educated and work full time and I would not be able afford to live here if I didn't have the apartment I have now, it's an anxiety I have watching Echo Park gentrify to suit the needs of the people who rent luxury apartments and flip houses. I grew up in LA and love this place unconditionally, but the cancer of luxury apartments, real estate investors who view old tenants as a burden, landlords who illegally evict tenants thru harassment and intimidation, and the lack of regular apartments at affordable rents with rent control is creating a city that does not feel like the Los Angeles that I love.

Please do not criminalize homelessness in any form, instead make it city policy to use police and city workers to reach out to people, spread the word about their rights and public assistance programs available. Concentrate on approving housing that is affordable, supporting co-ops that low-income families can apply for thru FHA loans to become home owners, promote tenants rights and laws about relocation fees, and promote policies that empower Angelenos so we can continue to live in a socioeconomic and racially diverse city. Thank you.

Best Regards,
Virginia Dan

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City Attorney report and Ordinance relative to repealing Section 85.02 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code prohibiting the use of streets and public parking lots for habitation.

Fiscal Impact Statement Submitted: No

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.