

LA RIGHT TO HOUSING COLLECTIVE



June 22, 2011

LA City Council
Housing and Community Economic
Development Committee
200 N. Spring Street
LA, CA 90012

Dear Councilmembers,

The Los Angeles Human Right to Housing Collective is a coalition of community groups made up of hundreds of public housing, Section 8, and rent-stabilized tenants, as well as other low-income and homeless people. The Collective works on the local and national level to defend and promote the human right to housing.

We are writing to you today to express our profound disappointment with the Mayor's recent nomination process for Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA). First and foremost, there was no process for community input into the nominations. Also, Mayor's staff acted in a deceitful manner when communicating with our representatives during this process. During meetings on various occasions with the Mayor's staff on this issue, we were told that the Mayor would not be replacing Commissioners until investigations were completed. The day after the resignations were submitted, the Mayor announced his nominations. Clearly candidates were interviewed and decided upon before commissioners resigned while at the same time residents were told that this was not happening. Given the recent history of HACLA and the need for a knowledgeable and accountable Commission to move forward out of a period of corruption, incompetence and scandal, this process is even more unacceptable.

Resident leaders in the Collective have been working tirelessly to have a democratic and accountable HACLA. The residents have the expertise and motivation to bring the Housing Authority to its full potential. The recommendations of the Human Right to Housing Collective must be fairly and openly considered by the Mayor not only because it is the fair thing, but because it is the smart thing. Given the housing crisis and growing federal budget concerns, the City needs visionary leadership with expertise in HACLA and HUD programs, not political appointments of possibly unqualified nominees.

As your constituents, we are asking that you:

1. Delay the current nominations for the HACLA Commission until a transparent process for selecting nominees, including resident input, is completed
2. Support the appointment of an entirely new Commission that is committed to government-funded housing, represents the interests of the residents, is highly qualified and knowledgeable about affordable housing and HACLA issues and policies, and includes at least some candidates recommended by the Housing Collective
3. Promote and participate in ongoing dialogue with tenants to ensure open, democratic and honest processes at HACLA

Sincerely,

Pam Walls Rosa Roman
On behalf of the LA Human Right to Housing Collective

Rogelio Sotelo

Date: 6/22/11

Submitted in HCED Committee

Council File No: 11-1000, 11-1002

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Deputy: Comm from Public