

January 23, 2019

Honorable Members of the Housing Committee  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 1/23/19  
Submitted in H56 Committee  
Council File No: 14-0268-513  
Item No. 6  
Deputy: \_\_\_\_\_

Re; CF 14-0268-S13

Dear Honorable Members Cedillo, Krekorian, and Harris-Dawson;

I write to you in support of the Anti-Tenant Harassment ordinance.

We all, whether tenant or home owner, have the right to feel safe and secure in our homes. Harassment by property owners and their agents undermines our right to be left alone to live our lives in peace and quiet, which is what we, as tenants, all desire.

Harassment is a common tool used by landlords to circumvent the RSO protections tenants have, by forcing them out of their homes by various means, including physical and verbal intimidation, destroying tenants' property, removal of rights granted in leases, such as parking, pet ownership, use of common areas, etc. This ordinance will help to protect more people from displacement, which is a huge problem in our city currently. We need to protect people from becoming unhoused by these unscrupulous practices. Harassment is aggression; it is no less than psychological violence, and we must create protections against it, not only for RSO units, but for all rental units in Los Angeles.

My personal experience is as follows; I have lived in a duplex in Mid-City for over 14 years. In the spring of 2015, the property was sold. The new owner thought she was going to be able to evict me for "owner-occupancy". However, I am a "protected tenant" under the RSO, and she could not do so. The harassment and abuse started shortly after that, and continues to this day. It used to be pleasant living here; not any more. I had an outside life here, and a garden. She demanded I get rid of all of my plants, thousands of dollars' worth, took away my patio, which is the entrance to my apartment. She stripped every living thing out of the patio and on much of the property, turning what had once looked like a beautiful park into what looked like a bomb-site. This is common behavior with new

owners, as an attempt to intimidate the tenants. She took away my parking, which is granted in my lease, so that I now can often not even park on the street I live on. This has curtailed my activities, as I cannot be sure of having any place to park when I come home if I go out in the evening. She filed a false report against me with the LAFD. The LAFD came and found no violations. This was vicious, and deeply offensive to me. I have numerous 3-day notices from her, claiming my rent was late...written on the first of the month. My rent is never late. Well over half of the communications I have ever received from her contain a threat of eviction. On one day, last summer, I received 2 3-day notices and a 20-day notice, all with threats of eviction. In one day. She demanded I get rid of my cat, whom I have had since well before she bought the property. I have a right to cats in my lease. She has allowed workmen free access to my garage, with no notice to me, and has allowed my property to be stolen. She tries to blame me for anything that goes wrong with the 91 year-old plumbing, making me dread reporting any problem. I have reason to believe she has put trash on my car and, most recently, in my mailbox. She tried to evict me on trivial charges in November, but did not prevail. Nevertheless, I had to go through the stress and expense of a trial, when I had done nothing wrong.

I have no expectation that this sort of behavior will stop unless we have a law to stop it, and the means of, and access to, enforcement. As things stand now, tenants in Los Angeles are at the mercy of people like this, because harassment is not illegal. In my 45 years as a renter in Los Angeles, I have never seen a time more hostile to tenants. We have nowhere to turn. We need you to change that. Please adopt the ordinance, along with the suggested alterations and strengthening language submitted here today. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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