

Housing & Tenants Rights Committee
DRAFT MINUTES
9/27/18

in attendance:

Carol Cetrone
Ninotchka Regets
Jane Damian
Donna Barstow
Jared Baxter – LA Tenants Union presentation
Samantha Danner
Scott Craig - minutes

introduction of attendants

Non agenda items:

Donna Barstow: First action by Waverly Tenants – March outside Beverly Hills restaurant owned by landlord
Waverly Tenants still have no letter from Councilman Ryu to support tenants – maybe put the tenants on agenda for Oct 3
Neighborhood Council meeting to get letter of support?

Agenda Items:

Nomination and election of co-chairs – Carol Cetrone and Ninotchka Regets were nominated and unanimously elected co-chairs

Ethical Realtor Forum - Mimi and others from the L.A. Tenants union and realtors are meeting to create a dialogue about the impacts of eviction. At the previous meeting there was a disagreement about Ellis Act and a “Spicy” conversation with realtors. One realtor mistakenly thought the Ellis Act was put in place to stimulate business. Friendly conversation encouraged. Next meeting – let Carol know if you want to go.

Problems with Housing Dept. task force – nothing has happened unfortunately
Anti-harassment ordinance, no knowledge of its contents and we are unsure about its progress

Jared Baxter is with the LATU Policy and Research Committee project: Jared has prepared a presentation about the Amicus Brief for the legal appeal to City’s decision to change Cherokee RSO apartment building into a boutique hotel – CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act of 1970) – using that to appeal in court. CEQA law is broad and covers more than just environmental issues. CEQA has a category called “population in housing and housing displacement”. Cherokee case is using that CEQA law. Cities/planning agencies are encouraged to come up with guidelines for displacement, etc. Jared used Eviction mapping project for 2017 to identify displacements brought on by Ellis Act and found the number of units removed via Ellis; also found a net loss of affordable housing. New housing approved by city is only available to citizens with moderate income. The City of L.A. has responded to research notes but only sees the socio-economic impact on loss of housing and not the environmental or health impacts. There are six documents that the City of L.A. recognized individual impact (one building project) – not one of the projects included buildings with more than 6 units. The 2nd District Court is where this court case is for resisting Cherokee change – this court case could have statewide effect. Health impacts included within CEQA law: homelessness is unhealthy, eviction is stressful, moving far away is unhealthy. Jared and Sean with Tenants Eviction Group wrote the amicus, Jared would like volunteers with the research his group is doing. Jared answered questions from the Committee, Committee wants to be updated

Prop 10 – vote yes – repeals Costa Hawkins – gives local control to cities and takes control away from Sacramento
there is a Statewide discussion about what happens if it does or does not pass –
Brenda Hawkins in mayor’s office is helpful and knowledgeable on tenants and homelessness, etc.
Carol has Yes on 10 toolbox on Facebook, let her know if you’d like to join
Would be good to know details on statewide bills that involve housing, i.e. Propositions 1 & 2

Jane spoke about rent strikes in Highland Park:
Tenants associations doing actions
Media gets involved
Burlington apartment had an action to prevent police involvement
Rent strikes are dangerous – have to be planned and backed by lawyer

October 19, 8AM meeting at California Endowment Center near Union Station
(meeting for what?)

Tenants’ right to council motion – proposed by councilman Korretz – giving tenants a right to an attorney – tenants should be able to get public attorney to help them fight eviction and harassment. Looking at SF and NY models to see which is best, housing committee passed it.
Meeting with HCID and mayor’s office. Asked Jane’s group to put together proposal.
2 groups – legal group and tenants group
Funding could come a portion of the State funds for homelessness - since it helps prevent some who would be homeless if evicted

Previous special meeting minutes read and approved

Previous regular meeting minutes were revised and approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM

