

HOMES NOT HOTELS

JUNE 29, 2019

DEAR COUNCILMEMBER MITCH O'FARRELL,

As the City of Los Angeles faces a historic housing crisis and steep rise in homelessness, demolishing rent-stabilized housing stock is akin to pouring gasoline on a raging fire. It is especially unacceptable to displace people from homes they can afford and turn them into hotels, which house no one. Yet this is what's happening throughout the city and county, and particularly in the areas of Hollywood that you represent. Hollywood has seen the number of hotel rooms double since 2000, while an estimated 12,500 residents were displaced by rising rents. The Latinx population alone in Hollywood dropped by 17% from 2000 to 2010. Since being elected to City Council in 2017, your own voting record has contributed to the rapid gentrification and overdevelopment of Hollywood, including the push to bring the 2028 Olympics to Los Angeles, which will accelerate displacement across the city, and further prioritize hotel development in Hollywood over residents' pressing needs.

Your constituents demand homes, not hotels.

Building thousands of new hotel rooms in Hollywood will do nothing to help the growing thousands of Angelenos currently experiencing--or on the brink of--homelessness. In reality, this push to develop and convert peoples' homes into hotels will continue to result in mass displacement, accelerated gentrification, and diversion of local resources.

We demand you attend to the needs of your constituents by:

- **Make a pledge: not one more tenant evicted to make way for more hotel rooms.**

Over the last 3 years, the Hollywood local of the LA Tenants Union has organized tenants in at least eight buildings slated for hotel conversion, representing 407 rent-stabilized units that will be lost. The Ellis Act is the legal loophole that facilitates this mass displacement. As an elected leader, you should push back against these unjust laws and do whatever it takes to work with tenants as they fight to keep their homes and stay in their communities.

- **Draft an updated Community Plan for Hollywood that limits hotel development instead of incentivizing it and prioritizes the preservation of rent-stabilized housing.**

In addition to supporting tenants and buildings who are fighting immediate displacement, you can use your power as a Councilmember to prevent future displacement by limiting the unchecked expansion of hotel development in Hollywood.

This is a critical moment in our city's future and you have the opportunity to take truly bold steps to address our housing and homelessness crisis.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____