

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### **Housing Inspector Admits That City of Los Angeles Has a Secret Agenda Against Landlords**

by **Bill Hooley**

Many housing codes in Los Angeles are written in such a way so that tenants will never be cited no matter how much damage they do to a rental unit. The tenant does the damage but the landlord gets cited. A Los Angeles housing inspector admitted this to me after I promised never to reveal his name. He said, **“The housing codes in the City of Los Angeles are written in such a way that we cannot cite the tenants even if they admit doing the damage to your apartment building”**. This was a revelation to me. Here is someone who works inside the Los Angeles Housing Department admitting that the agenda against landlords is actually written into the City Housing codes.

I own a three-unit apartment building in Los Angeles that was unfairly placed in REAP over cosmetic issues. For more than two years, I’ve been fighting a one man war against the City of Los Angeles’ secret agenda of discrimination against landlords and now I have someone, from the inside, admitting to me that the housing codes are giving bad tenants who damage their apartments, a free pass.

We now live in a country where the unaccomplished, those people who are too lazy to work hard in order to improve their lives, think it is perfectly okay for government to take more money away from successful business people and property owners so that “we’ll all be more equal”. The bigger evil here is that many who are seeking elected office are catering to this mentality. Since renters outnumber landlords, in order to get elected political candidates will tell the larger voting block what they want hear. You can forget about right and wrong because it is all about getting elected to office. Things are not going to get any “fairer” for landlords and business owners unless we unite and fight back. This being the reality of the times, I have a few ideas...

**Idea #1:** We must usher in the new age of the “politically enlightened”. “Political correctness” has proven itself to be a disaster. We are not all created equal; some people are willing to work hard while others just want a free ride. As the inventor of the new “politically enlightened” movement we must put out a message in the media that as long as government keep punishing success and rewarding the lazy with more entitlements, America is headed towards becoming a third world nation. The present financial crisis is only the tip of the iceberg.

**Idea #2:** All of a sudden, large corporations (including the big three automakers) are running to the federal government asking for billions of dollars because they are about to go bankrupt due to mismanagement by overpaid and incompetent CEOs. Landlords should come together and form a union of sorts. We should go the Federal government and ask for money to compensate us for the money we not able to collect due to unfair rent control laws in Los Angeles. These unfair laws are forcing many landlords to sell their buildings to developers and in the end, poor people lose their “rent controlled apartments”. This is the message we must put out in the media. The media doesn’t care

about landlords but it does care about “poor people”. We must speak in one voice like someone who is running for office.

There seems to be no end to the agenda of discrimination against landlords in Los Angeles. First we are denied our right to collect fair market value rent from our tenants.

Secondly, the City wants us to do expensive cosmetic improvements but we’re not allowed to raise the rents in order to pay for the building improvement loan. Thirdly, the Los Angeles Housing Department won’t cite our tenants when they break the housing codes, especially when it comes to illegally overcrowding an apartment.

One of my tenants is storing a propane tank in their apartment. They’ve also made several holes in the walls and illegally overcrowded the apartment. Still, neither of two housing inspectors who came out to my building about three weeks apart, would write anything negative about my tenants in their inspection reports. I believe that the law should be equal in protection and regulation of landlords and tenants. In Los Angeles, landlords do not have equality under the law.

For some strange reason, landlords by nature are not very politically active. That must change. We must force ourselves to come together and fight the City of Los Angeles. The only way we’re ever going to get the Justice that we deserve is to create an avalanche of lawsuits against the City. That is the only way we are going to turn the tide of discrimination against us. When President Obama decided he want to become President, few people took him seriously including party leaders, but he organized enough people who wanted change and he got elected. There is a lesson here for us landlords. We must do the same.

I am offering myself to be the leader of the new “Fairness for Landlords” civil rights movement. If we don’t join together and start fighting for equality, there will be no end to the discrimination against landlords in Los Angeles. There will be more laws created that strip away our rights as property owners and unfairly over tax us in order to create more entitlement programs for those who resent us and what we have accomplished. Is this the America you want to end up living in?

*If you’re willing to stand up and defend your rights as a landlord, please contact me at [billhoey@earthlink.net](mailto:billhoey@earthlink.net) or at (323) 397-8740.*