



## *Letter to the Editor...*

### City of West Hollywood Fines Owner \$450 for “Unacceptable” Lawn!

*The below letter was sent to the City of West Hollywood by an apartment owner who was cited and fined for having an unacceptable front lawn. What WILL they think of next?*

I am requesting an Administrative Hearing regarding citations and fines that I am objecting to, (although payments are enclosed) for the following reasons.

I personally spoke with Mr. Jeff Jones from the code enforcement division twice and even met with him on site for suggestions in order to remedy and correct certain deficiencies which I was told existed.

We have a frontage lawn of about 450 square feet that was cemented until the **city tore it down and thereby FORCED us to plant grass or other vegetation**, which we did.

We have spent a great amount of money and time installing a full sprinkler system and acquiring plants and grass seed. We developed a beautiful growing green lawn, maintained by a gardener who attends the lawn once a week and a full time on-premises manager who also helps maintain the appearance of the property. We are proud owners of our building and our file with the city supports that claim.

Recently, the Department of Water and Power declared you could only water your lawn and vegetation for a short period of time – no more than twice a week – due to water rationing. We are law-abiding citizens and because of obeying the law, our plants and grass have died. We also tried planting drought resistant plants, but while they are struggling to survive, we will have to give them some time to establish themselves. We planted the new plants about a week after talking to Mr. Jones but although they are growing, they are also not spreading fast enough.

Our front lawn grass is also being trampled upon by dogs and their owners who allow their dogs to defecate and do not pick up after them. I am suggesting that someone cite those irresponsible citizens. It seems that I am (as they say) between a rock and a hard place.

The city needs to understand that we are living in a difficult time and certain sacrifices need to be made, yes, by all. ***I know the city is also hurting and is in need of money, but I don't believe that unfairly penalizing apartment owners is the answer.*** I know that this is hard to believe, but we still have tenants paying less than \$800 a month for two bedrooms and two baths!

I truly believe that we need to reorganize our priorities and show more compassion before acting so drastically.

Because of the above stated reasons, I feel that I am a victim of circumstance and believe that the committee should reverse the citations and refund me the money. (\$450.00).

Sincerely,

Ami E. Deckel

CC: Los Angeles DWP

Apartment Owners Association of California