

Fwd: Drug dealing from tents in front of my home

Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 10:50 AM

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From: **Adam Stern** <Adam.Stern@infinitelyvirtual.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 21, 2021 at 3:06 PM

Subject: Drug dealing from tents in front of my home

To: cityclerk@lacity.org <cityclerk@lacity.org>, contactCD4@lacity.org <contactCD4@lacity.org>, contact.lapdonline@gmail.com <contact.lapdonline@gmail.com>, richard.llewellyn@lacity.org <richard.llewellyn@lacity.org>, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, recorder@rrcc.lacounty.gov <recorder@rrcc.lacounty.gov>, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov <sheila@bos.lacounty.gov>, info@lacounty.gov <info@lacounty.gov>, assemblymember.friedman@assembly.ca.gov <assemblymember.friedman@assembly.ca.gov>, senator.portantino@senate.ca.gov <senator.portantino@senate.ca.gov>, gavin@gavinnewsom.com <gavin@gavinnewsom.com>, senator_padilla@padilla.senate.gov <senator_padilla@padilla.senate.gov>

To whom it may concern:

Today I have hit my limit on drug crime and homelessness in my neighborhood. I live at [REDACTED] in Los Feliz. During my lifetime I have lived all over this city. For many years I lived in Santa Monica – I am inured to homelessness. It has never been a major issue for me. As you well know, this city is now on fire. The homeless we have now is not the innocuous homeless we had in Santa Monica all those years. These people are not interested in help getting off the street. And while I have become accustomed to encampments under bridges and in front of businesses, I cannot accept tents in front of homes and apartment buildings. Our children play here. Our mothers walk down the street with babies wrapped to their chest. Our lives take place on our sidewalks in front of our homes.

Today I called LAPD dispatch to ask for a unit to help remove a hostile homeless person from my street. About an hour later I went down to meet the officers – they weren't there. I looked to see if any actions were taken, and I observed the person in question packing a cooler to walk down the street. And in her place, a thug was watching her stuff. That initial call was cut short as they had to respond to a more critical call. I completely understand that this is not an "emergency". And so I called dispatch back to find out what happened, whereupon I engaged with a wonderful dispatch supervisor. She informed me that the city will not take any action unless this person is breaking the law. In fact the law LAMC line 41.18(d) does prohibit sleeping on the sidewalk or street. She did allow the aborted call to continue, and I had a nice conversation with the officers who were dispatched. Each officer displayed incredible professionalism. They relayed the same – there nothing they can do. The policies of the Mayor's office prevents them from taking any action.

So the subject of this call, which I thought was simply an aggressive homeless person is now possibly a gang sponsored drug operation – across from my home where I live with my wife and two very young children. Where I grew up, we learned to spot drug dealers at an early age. And this person the homeless person called to watch her stuff was not some homeless friend there to make sure her tent wasn't messed with. He was her supplier.

This is not the first time I am dealing with drug issues in my neighborhood. Ever since the election of Gascon, I have been dealing with people shooting up behind my home at midnight to 3am. Sometimes I have to go out there three times a week to confront dangerous addicts in their cars, on the ground or simply milling around on my property. It has gotten so bad that I hired an armed response company so I don't have to risk my life on a nightly basis to keep this dangerous element away from my wife and kids.

Now I am left with what next steps I can take. I can try to watch this person and film them selling drugs – endangering my life and those of my family members. Or I can hide in my home hoping the dealing does not spill out into violence. Neither of these are choices. I do have one last choice – I can sell and move my family out of my \$5M house, sell my investment properties totaling another \$5M, and move my \$7M per year business to Texas or Florida. I am not alone here. My

business friends are all wondering when we should just abandon this cesspool, taking \$100m in revenue with them. With all of us leaving, how much tax revenue will you have to run this place. I imagine De Blasio is wondering that right now.

I am certain that if I visited your neighborhood, there are no people dealing there – at least not for long. I imagine law enforcement would quickly remove dealers from your street. I am simply asking that you enforce the law. Get this crime away from our homes – all of our homes. I don't want this for me alone. I want it for every Angelino from every socio economic background. None of us deserve to be treated like this by the city that we fund. At what point will citizens in this city be treated with respect by its leaders?

I respectfully request that some action be taken on behalf of the citizens. I prefer to remain in the city I loved, hoping it will return to its prior status: one of the most beautiful, vibrant cities in the world. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

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