

MOTION PUBLIC SAFETY

In October 2006, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 177966 (Nuisance Hotel Ordinance) amending Section 41.49 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) regarding hotel registration and motel rentals. The amendments were intended to address various criminal activity generated by nuisance hotels and motels.

The LAMC was amended, in part, to prohibit a hotel/motel operator from renting a room unless certain conditions were met, including the following:

“(b) A room shall not be rented hourly or for less than 12 hours unless an identification document is obtained from the guest when he or she checks into the hotel.”

An “identification document” must contain a picture, description, and date of birth of the individual as issued by the federal government or the State of California such as a motor vehicle operator’s license, an identification card, an identification card issued to a member of the Armed Forces, or passport.

The new identification requirement has, however, inadvertently created problems for the City’s emergency shelter providers. Homeless services agencies regularly utilize emergency motel vouchers to assist homeless residents. Many, if not all, of the clients being served by homeless providers do not have identification as required by the hotel registration ordinance. The identification requirement has complicated and exacerbated issuance of emergency housing vouchers.

The City Attorney, Los Angeles Police Department, and homeless service providers should be directed to develop an accountable means by which homeless residents can use emergency housing vouchers in a timely and constructive manner. For example, the development of a standard voucher registration process to be honored by all parties, should be explored. Such a process could build on the documentation currently being provided by homeless service providers and serve as a form of identification. Tarzana Treatment Centers has been instrumental in establishing such a form and it should be reviewed for this consideration.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney, with the cooperation and assistance of the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and in consultation with local homeless service providers, be requested to develop an acceptable documentation and/or identification process to mitigate identification problems now confronting homeless residents in their timely use of emergency motel housing vouchers as a result of the enactment of the “Nuisance Hotel Ordinance”, and to prepare and present an ordinance amending Section 41.49 of the LAMC, as may be necessary to implement this process.

I FURTHER MOVE that immediate consideration be given to allow “identification documentation” to include identifications commonly possessed by homeless such as those issued by correctional institutions, transportation authorities, and hospitals.

PRESENTED BY _____

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SECOND BY _____

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