

Tenants Ordered to Relocate as Officials Investigate Safety of Converted Home

Inner City Law Center represents tenants in a single-family house in South Los Angeles illegally converted into more than 40 rental units! This Saturday, the case was highlighted on the front page of the Los Angeles Times because, as the holidays approach, the tenants were ordered to vacate as the City investigates the safety of the converted home.

Dozens of tenants at the building located at 443 West 49th Street are fearful for their safety given the building does not meet health, safety and fire codes and has been deemed substandard by the Los Angeles Housing Department. Now with the order to vacate, they are at risk of becoming homeless if the owner or the City does not provide the required relocation assistance in time for them to find replacement housing. Initially the building came to ICLC's attention when tenants began to organize, complaining about cockroaches and lack of heat, among other issues

City records show that the owner, John Callaghan, was granted permits to enlarge the home to a two-story, three-unit family dwelling, but he did not stop there. He crammed as many as 44 rental units into a structure with narrow hallways, tiny shared bathrooms and communal kitchens. He even added and rents units on an unapproved third floor that lacks the permits or approvals required to ensure sufficient structural support. The Department of Building and Safety reportedly inspected the property, but failed to act appropriately either in issuing the Certificate of Occupancy for three units when the building contained more than 40, or in their follow up safety inspections.

Last week the Housing Department asked the Department of Building and Safety to make sure the building was safe, and issued a Notice to Vacate Substandard Building and Order to Pay Relocation Benefits to Displaced Tenants. ICLC's immediate priority is ensuring that the tenants receive the required relocation assistance and not become homeless over the holidays.

About Inner City Law Center

Inner City Law Center has been serving the poorest and most vulnerable individuals and families in Los Angeles. Founded on the basic principle that every human being should be treated with dignity and respect at all times, ICLC, through its staff of 35 attorneys, advocates, tenant organizers, social workers, and other professionals, provides free legal representation and social service advocacy to thousands of homeless and working poor clients each year.

As the only full-time provider of legal services headquartered on Skid Row, ICLC is widely recognized for its expertise in housing issues, as well as government and veterans benefits.

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Donate to ICLC

Every day, Inner City Law Center's staff performs miracles for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Will you help us again?

Your support provides ICLC with the tools and flexibility we need to creatively respond to poverty and homelessness.



Thank you for your continued generosity, and for supporting ICLC's mission.

Pepsi Challenge

ICLC is in the running for a \$50,000 grant from the Pepsi Challenge contest to support our Homeless Veterans Project. During these difficult economic times, the Pepsi challenge is a great, free way to fund our work.

ICLC is one of 10 nonprofit organizations that have come together to support one another in the Pepsi Challenge online giving contest.

We have set up a very easy daily vote e-mail sign up page for you.

Please <u>sign up here</u> to help us win \$50,000.

As a daily voter, you'll receive a short e-mail each morning with a link where you can go and cast your votes.



In addition to signing up, please encourage your