



Possibly dangerous commercial business activity

1 message

Nicholas

Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 7:44 PM

To: Clerk.CPS@lacity.org

Hello, I am Nicholas

I have received a tip from small business owners along Vineland Avenue that the Commercial spaces there were subject to a sudden doubling of rent prices in an attempt to drive them out. This is incredibly worrying. This is a very low income area, and those places provide jobs, and are used by small, local businesses. In a strained economy, with minimum wage unable to pay rent, currently on the edge of a recession or depression, this could be considered price gouging, and such moves (pushing businesses out of communities, and replacing them with more expensive housing, based on economic bubbles) are what spark a cycle of economic downturn.

Most importantly, the area is dangerous. A club, moving company and cafe in the area act as a deterrent and safe place along the street, where the only other options are dark alleys, empty suburban streets, and homeless encampments. The tea house (TeaPop) generates foot traffic all day long, keeping streets along the area busy enough that crime is suppressed. The club does the same at night, while the moving company has a flood light active that keeps an entire sidewalk beside a nearly empty lot well lit and monitored.

also of note, is that the tea company acts as a gallery and hosts small markets on its corner, allowing local artisans to survive in an increasingly hostile economy.

If the street is vacated, it will become dangerous, and harm the local economy. if it is replaced with apartments, the apartments' first floor **MUST have retail space to generate foot traffic to protect the community and drive the economy.** Anything less than five stories high will create undue economic and humanitarian harm, and benefit only the real estate company that owns the location.

The fact that the company is not being evicted, but forced to close shop on its own, is a red flag, suggesting the company knows their actions are not ethical.

Thank you for hearing my concern-
-Nick