

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: The PLUM Committee should maintain all conditions on The Stuart Hotel, and should actually enforce those conditions. The Stuart Hotel has never complied with Condition no. 5, i.e., 24-hour licensed on-site security guards. Instead, the Stuart Hotel engages “on-call” security guards who might occasionally visit the Stuart. As far as I can tell, this “on-call” security does nothing to prevent crime and violence at The Stuart Hotel because guards are never present when an incident occurs. Furthermore, the fact that the Stuart operates as a conventional hotel with short-term guests, instead of a residential hotel with long-term tenants as the City supposedly requires, is no doubt another factor behind the high frequency of crimes, drug overdoses and subsequent emergency responses there. I still frequently see open drug use, open drug dealing, open prostitution and gang violence taking place immediately outside the Stuart Hotel’s entrance and on the sidewalk around the hotel’s perimeter. Even though the City deemed the Stuart Hotel a public nuisance as far back as 2002, the City has turned a blind eye to the fact that the Stuart has never complied with Condition no. 5. The Patels have demonstrated nothing but disregard for housing codes and contempt for authority, and will never be responsible landlords or business operators. According to the Patels and their mouthpiece Frank Weiser, there are no problems at the Stuart and no reason to maintain the Conditions. The high volume of recent emergency responses at the hotel proves otherwise. The City should take stewardship of the Stuart (as it has recently done with similarly troubled properties owned by the Skid Row Housing Trust) and implement the Conditions until such time as a new owner can be found.