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PRESS RELEASE

FIFTY KIDS FROM TEN BUILDINGS FROM SOUTH LOS ANGELES DEMAND REPAIRS FROM THEIR LANDLORD, FRANK MCHUGH, AT HIS HOME IN MARINA DEL REY ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Over fifty kids and parents, who live in some of the 200+ buildings controlled by Frank McHugh, will travel from South Los Angeles to Marina del Rey to demand that McHugh properly rehabilitates their homes. Dressed as mice and sick homes, kids will canvass Via Dolce Street in Marina del Rey and will ask McHugh to repair his buildings or pay compensation.

“We lack heating, have plumbing problems and live with cockroach infestations. Our children become sick in these conditions. We tried negotiating with McHugh but he rejected our proposal and continued to perform his temporary ‘mickey mouse’ repairs,” said Narsiza Rivera, who has lived in McHughville for 11 years. “We need real repairs so that our children don’t get sick from being indoors. If McHugh won’t fix the buildings, we will tell everyone he knows how our kids are sick from living in slum conditions and about the misery he brings to our children and families.”

“Trick or Treating” begins at 7pm tonight. The group will convene at Frank McHugh’s condo, 3732 Via Dolce, Marina del Rey at 7:45pm. Allies from POWER Venice, St. John’s Well Child and Family Center and Esperanza Community Housing Corporation will also be there to support the kids.

Tenants from McHugh buildings launched their campaign in June 26, 2008. Tenants are seeking “Repairs, Respect and Reparations.” Last week, with assistance from Inner City Law Center, tenants filed a habitability lawsuit on 275 Witmer St., 90026. They plan on filing civil suits on additional McHugh buildings.

McHugh has been a source of ire for Los Angeles housing advocates for years. He has evicted over 550 families and has been civilly sued for habitability violations over 40 times. In September 2008, as a result from a City Attorney’s criminal misdemeanor complaint against him, McHugh was sentenced to for 5 years; probation, ordered to pay over \$14,000.00 in fines and costs, make \$60,000 in charitable contributions, and ordered him to divest himself of all rental property interests in Los Angeles within 3 years.

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