

The Coalition for Economic Survival is providing its full support and assistance to the Barrington Plaza Tenants effort to stop this unjust evictions



The Holdouts

The ones who stayed behind and fought mass eviction at Barrington Plaza

By ROBERT LAWRENCE, a Barrington Plaza tenant leader and a producer whose films include "Clueless," "Die Hard with a Vengeance," "Rapid Fire" and "Rock Star."
-March 9, 2024

After a moment of suspenseful silence, the Community Manager at Barrington Plaza looked up from her laptop and met my anxious countenance with an unwavering, defiant gaze. "Robert, if you don't like it here, then move!"

It was her curt response to my email in which I had questioned why the ominous, black-suited Security Guards, known to the tenants as "The Men in Black," led by their imposing chief, referred to as "The Enforcer," showed up at Barrington Plaza's private dog park to demand that going forward our dogs could no longer play with each other.

While our B.P. dog-lovers club was disappointed by this inexplicable closure, most distraught was "Auntie L.," the octogenarian "Fairy Dog-mother" of Barrington Plaza, who would show up every afternoon to cuddle my Labradoodle, Boomer, and her other beloved fur babies. Since the park's closure, she has chosen to treat her loneliness at a local bar.



At the time, none of us could have guessed that Douglas Emmett, our multi-billion-dollar corporate landlord,



would go to such lengths to evict those tenants who did not qualify for a one-year extension, and to harass those who did, all done with the intention of first emptying, then renovating the complex under the pretext of "fire safety improvements," before charging three times the rent.

Several weeks after the canine eviction, that same "Enforcer" accosted a journalist who was planning to interview me and forbade me to give her a tour of the grounds. He informed me that he was aggressively enforcing another new, authoritarian policy at Barrington Plaza, soon to be sarcastically renamed by the residents, "Barrington Penitentiary, where the inmates pay rent."

Since I last wrote about our eviction for the [Op-ed section of The L.A. Times on July 17](#), over seven hundred tenants have moved out, and the once vibrant but now eerily deserted "plaza" feels more like a dystopian, mid-century modern, ghost town.



The relocation firm that Douglas Emmett has retained to "assist" the tenants in finding new lodging functions more like a hostile proxy to implement their campaign of exerting unrelenting pressure to force us to move out. One of their agents recently showed up unannounced at a female tenant's door, banged and kicked on it for her to let him in, then called her "a liar" and a "low life" when she refused.

The unexpected upside for those of us who have chosen to stay is a newfound sense of connection, community, and family, even amongst tenants who previously would only nod a polite hello to each other in the elevator.

Not only did we form a mutually supportive tenants association, but we began to hold weekly Zoom meetings to exchange information about our lawsuit to fight our eviction; host bi-monthly brunches; meet for "Happy Hour" cocktails; and chat in our What's Up group about everything from a dead rodent found in someone's parking spot to an inquiry about

borrowing a neighbor's vacuum cleaner.

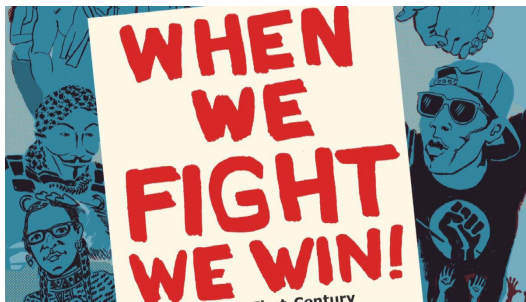
No Help From Our Council Member

However, what most bonds us is our shared knowledge that we are in this fight alone. Our councilwoman, Traci Park, who has received hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from Douglas Emmett, has ignored our pleas for help and instead made her shameful priority [preserving the former Brentwood home of a dead movie star \(Marilyn Monroe\)](#) over protecting her living constituents at Barrington Plaza.

Because Douglas Emmett is unlawfully using the Ellis Act to evict us, we are inspired that our battle represents a last stand for tenants' rights that will protect all buildings with rent-controlled units, significantly impacting the city and state's crisis of affordable housing and homelessness.



Whether it's assisting a longtime, paraplegic resident suffering from ALS who hoped to live out her last year at Barrington Plaza; calming down a PTSD-afflicted woman suffering from the anxiety and stress caused by her eviction; or helping those tenants who didn't receive an extension till May 8 how to contest their unlawful detainer, we are determined to stay housed, which is a basic human right.



Recently, one of a pair of elderly, disabled, identical twins with matching walkers and UCLA Bruin T-shirts, asked me in the elevator if I was one of "The Holdouts." After a moment of hesitation, I proudly proclaimed that I was.

Our Barrington Plaza Tenant Association has a [GoFundMe page](#) and is working with the [Coalition for Economic Survival](#) to fight our eviction. We need your contribution to save The Holdouts, both human and canine.



The [Barrington Plaza Tenants Association](#), represented by the [law firm of Campbell and Farahani](#), filed a lawsuit against Barrington Plaza's corporate owner Douglas Emmett, Inc. claiming the evictions are illegal. Under the state Ellis Act, landlords are allowed to evict if they are permanently leaving the rental business. [The lawsuit](#) accuses Douglas Emmett, Inc of operating in "bad faith" in that it has no intention of going out of the rent business and is evicting to renovate and gentrify the building so it can re-rent it at much higher luxury rents.

The lawsuit is scheduled to be heard in Santa Monica court on April 15, 2024. The outcome will impact tenants throughout the state.

\$ You Can Help Support the \$ Barrington Plaza Tenants Mass Eviction Fight

**More Help And Support is
Needed for the Barrington
Plaza Tenant Fight to Stop
This Unjust Ellis Act Eviction**

The Coalition for Economic Survival (CES) sees the important fight of the Barrington Plaza Tenant Association as a fight that is critical to all renters in the City of Los Angeles. If this landlord is successful in it's illegal use of the state Ellis Act it could open the door for other tenants to face similar evictions. These evictions must be stopped! That is why these tenants have CES' fully support and we urge they receive the support of every tenant and tenant organization in the city.

The law suit against this multi-million dollar corporation is likely to be expensive.

You can help by donating to the Barrington Plaza Tenants GoFundMe

**Support the Barrington Plaza Tenants
Efforts to Stop Their Unjust Ellis Eviction**

DONATE NOW!

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Account to help them maintain a legal effort to fight their eviction.

Make a donation by clicking

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/barrington-plaza-tenant-association>

Coalition for Economic Survival (CES)

RENTERS: Know Your Rights!



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Every Saturday 10 am via ZOOM

Email: HelpingLAREnters@gmail.com
to Request a Link to Register for Clinic

Serving All LA area Tenants
Language Accommodations for
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ATTENTION ALL RENTERS! ***Know Your Rights By Attending the*** **Coalition for Economic Survival** **Tenants' Rights Zoom Clinic**

To sign up for the next Coalition for Economic Survival
Tenants' Rights Clinic via ZOOM
Request a Link by emailing:
HelpingLAREnters@gmail.com

The Clinic serves the entire Southern California area.
Accommodations for Spanish, Russian speakers are provided.

One-On-One Assistance With an Attorney.

CES holds the Clinic **Every Saturday** via Zoom at 10 am.
and every Wednesday at 6 pm for West Hollywood Renters.
To request a link to register for any Clinic
email: HelpingLAREnters@gmail.com.

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Help Support the Coalition for Economic Survival. Donate Now!

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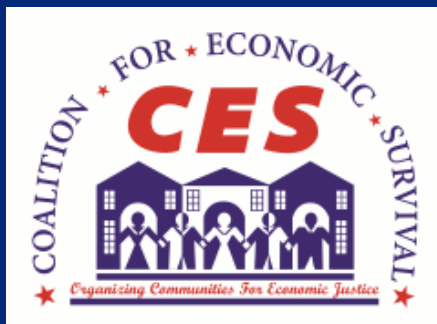
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