

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is intended to support the push to incorporate stiffer punishments (criminal laws) on squatters. My name is Kalif Gordon, and I want to share an incident of squatting that took place in our neighborhood (Desert Shores). Approximately 6-7 months ago my neighbor's informed me that a specific house that was in foreclosure had some suspicious activity going on. They were led to believe that the house was overcome by squatters, and squatters that were up to no good. We would observe numerous cars visiting the property on a daily basis, threats were made to neighbors. We also observed young women of all different ages visiting the premises.

The suspicions were not only shared with the home owners association, we as a community also contacted Metro. After making contact personally with the HOA, and metro to relate our suspicions we were told there was nothing the law could do to move forward without the consent of the owner whom left the property to foreclose. After numerous calls to Metro, and The HOA due to the increased activities in, and around the house I took it upon myself to contact the owner to ask for his assistance in removing the squatters.

The owner stated that he would contact Metro personally to inform them that he had no housing agreement with the individuals in his home. After numerous weeks of going back and forth Las Vegas Metro Police Department along with a joint force of other agencies were granted the permission to investigate the property.

Per one of the Metro Officers there was a cocktail of indecent, and unlawful things confiscated, and going on in that property. When questioned on why it took such a lengthy time to arrest these individuals their answer was that it was not a criminal act, and their hands were tied.

During these times homeowners in the neighborhood all felt vulnerable, and frustrated. I even installed security cameras, and a protective security gate to protect my family while I was at work. No one in our community felt safe, and we were all frustrated on the limitations of the law. It is very important to take a harder look on the limitations that local law enforcement has when it involves squatters. Take a proactive approach, and change the laws necessary to protect the law abiding citizens that work hard to pay their mortgages, and keep their families safe.

Sincerely,

Kalif Gordon