

REQUEST TO APPEAR

BEFORE THE FRESNO CITY COUNCIL

On April 1, 1980, the Fresno City Council adopted a policy relating to procedures to be used for those persons wishing to appear before the Fresno City Council, as follows:

SCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – APPEARANCES ON PRINTED AGENDA

In order to be placed on the agenda for a scheduled time, complete and submit the form below. State the topic to be discussed and provide any supporting material, if any. Also state the action you want the City Council to take. Your request will be referred to the City Manager and placed on the agenda no sooner than ten (10) days after receipt of your written letter in order to provide an opportunity for City staff to prepare comments for Council consideration. The policy is to limit your presentation to three (3) minutes pursuant to Ordinance 96-67. The City Clerk shall provide copies of your request to the Fresno City Council.

UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

You may address the City Council at the conclusion of the Council meeting and the policy is to limit your presentation to three (3) minutes pursuant to Ordinance 96-67. Please be present at the conclusion of the Council meeting if you wish to be heard.

REQUEST TO APPEAR BEFORE THE FRESNO CITY COUNCIL

Name Mary Esther Correa *AND George Torres*
Handi Man Property
Caretaker

Address [REDACTED]

Telephone No. [REDACTED] Date: Dec 7, 2017

Topic: High fines by City Council & Code enforcement
total fine \$14,000. I'm a disabled Senior
city & I fix my 2 units & I live on [REDACTED]

Action (if any): [REDACTED]
fresno.ca.gov

November 4, 2017

To: Better Business Bureau; Consumer Protection; Fresno Bee News Paper

From: Mary Esther Correa- Property duplex owner at [REDACTED]

I, Mary Esther Correa, live in my duplex at [REDACTED] and am trying to rent out the other at [REDACTED]. I am a disabled senior citizen, and a retired school teacher living on a very fixed income. I have tried to rent out the unit at [REDACTED] many times but always end up with tenants who pay no rent after the first month, leave my unit trashed, and let squatters and homeless people onto my property. To add insult to injury these tenants call code enforcement on me after they trash it causing me to pay for multiple repairs. There are over 45,000 homeless in our city and for over a year I have been fixing and trying to rent out my units.

I am not a slum landlord!! I have paid thousands of dollars to fix up my units after they have been trashed by tenants only for city council and code enforcement to fine me \$14,000. They also want to put a lien on my property and I don't understand why. I can only afford to pay \$20.00 per month on my income. I also have a friend that was fined \$500.00 for a homeless lady who was living in his alley with a cart and trash everywhere. Just last week, an elderly man who lives on my street and who cannot hear well was fined \$250.00. He told the judge he could pay the fine but not until he got paid on the 3rd of November because he too was on a fixed income and had no money. He was told if it was not paid by that date then his fine would go up to \$389.00. How is this right? How can the city council condone this?

The city council of Fresno has hired a special group of code inspectors who are being trained purely to fine the property owners. Their job is to register all the people who are renting homes and apartments and see how many people they have living on the properties. They are to look for any infractions they can find and ticket the owners to fix everything or be fined. The problem is the owners aren't the ones causing the infractions. Our properties are in good condition before the renters move in and then they trash it and we the owners get hit with the infractions and left with the cost of repairs and fines. All I do is rent, evict, and fix my units constantly and it isn't until I evict my tenants that code enforcement arrives to inspect my property that they just trashed. I know code enforcement is out to get slum landlords but not all of us are. What is in place to protect the landlords and our property from these tenants who costs us thousands of dollars in repairs?

I feel like the city council is violating my rights. The homeless do not vote, pay taxes, or rent yet have more rights when it comes to squatting than the property owners. There are many senior citizens in my district who own property, vote, and pay taxes yet we are being labeled as slum landlords and discriminated against. Like everyone in my district I worked hard all my life and finally retired but I am on a fixed income and I can't afford to pay the \$14,000.00 fine that was given to me. Because of this a lien is going to be put on my property that I've worked hard to keep. With my fixed income and the huge fine on my property the city may eventually take it over and all of it will be gone, stolen from me.

Mary Esther Correa

cc: Files
Senators & Representatives
Governor & all others
Mary Esther Correa (owner)