

ORDINANCE NO. 4293

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA, ADDING SECTION 34-222 TO ARTICLE V CHAPTER 34 OF THE POMONA MUNICIPAL CODE PROHIBITING THE HOURLY RENTALS OF HOTELS AND MOTELS WITHIN CITY LIMITS

WHEREAS, in a lawsuit filed on July 30, 2020, by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office alleged that a Pomona motel was a public nuisance violating California's Red Light Abatement Law and engaged in unlawful businesses practices;

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office was successful in their lawsuit and, as part of a settlement agreement, the motel's owner must install security cameras at the motel, cease renting rooms by the hour and post Human Trafficking Awareness notices, as required by law;

WHEREAS, the lawsuit stemmed from a two-year undercover operation at the motel, that is located in an area known for prostitution and human sex trafficking activity that has resulted in numerous complaints to the Pomona Police Department about illicit activity;

WHEREAS, in an effort to combat the use of hotel and motel accommodations for prostitution and related criminal activity, the City Council seeks to institute a hourly rental prohibition throughout the City's boundaries;

WHEREAS, this ordinance will make it more difficult for human traffickers to conduct their illegal enterprises within the City; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance will assist law enforcement in combating illegal activities within the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Pomona as follows:

SECTION 1. The recitals above are true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. The City Council of the City of Pomona hereby adds Section 34-222 to Article V Offenses Involving Public Morals Chapter 34 to read as follows:

Sec. 34-222. - Hourly Room Rates Prohibited.

No person conducting or owning any establishment described in Section .5809-10 and no person in charge, management, or control of such an establishment shall let or cause to be let any room or area of the establishment for a period of fewer than twelve hours, nor shall any such person let or cause to be rented any room or area of the establishment more than twice in any 24-hour period commencing at 12:01 a.m.

ATTACHMENT NO. 1

SECTION 3. **Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance is found to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, that invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, which can be implemented without the invalid provisions, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each provision thereof irrespective of whether any one or more provisions are found invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this Ordinance, and shall cause same to be posted as required by law, and this Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of November, 2020.

ATTEST:

CITY OF POMONA:

Rosalia A. Butler, MMC, City Clerk

Tim Sandoval, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Sonia Carvalho, City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss.
CITY OF POMONA)

I, ROSALIA A. BUTLER, MMC, CITY CLERK of the City of Pomona do hereby certify that the foregoing Urgency Ordinance was duly introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pomona held on October 19, 2020, and was adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pomona held on October 19, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS:

Rosalia A. Butler, MMC, City Clerk