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| **From:** | Tenant Power |
| **To:** | CACH |
| **Subject:** | Strongly Oppose Darius Mohsenin"s Application |
| **Date:** | Wednesday, January 29, 2020 7:18:36 PM |

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Members of the CACH:

We are Santa Cruz Tenant Power.

We are writing this letter to oppose the appointment of Darius Mohsenin to the Community Advisory Council on Homelessness. Mr. Mohsenin is not fit to serve on a body that discusses policy concerning some of the most vulnerable among our community. He is a landlord to many Section 8 voucher holders - while he would have you believe this makes him a nice man who cares about poor people, his track record shows otherwise.
Mr. Mohsenin is a good example of a local slumlord. He was forced some years ago by the city to shut down one of his rental properties to repair a walkway and balcony that was in danger of collapsing. His lack of proper maintenance displaced the people and families living in 6 units in the building. As people involved in discussing housing and very poor people in this community, CACH members must know how difficult it is for Section 8 voucher holders to find a home here. Mr. Mohsenin's negligence placed his tenants in an emergency situation where they had to scramble for new places to live.

Mr. Mohsenin's lack of concern for tenants extends beyond those he rents to. Darius has a more recent history of opposing changes to city law and budgets that would protect tenants across Santa Cruz. In early March of last year, he opposed a city grant to the newly founded Tenant Sanctuary tenants' rights counseling program, arguing that a different organization should have received those funds. Tenant Sanctuary was the only organization responding to the city's request for proposals for tenant counseling.

Mr. Mohsenin was also a loud opponent of the Measure M campaign, the 2016 ballot measure intended to pass a law limiting rent increases and evictions in the city of Santa Cruz. Research demonstrates that such laws protect poor and working tenants, actually preventing an increase in houselessness in high and increasing-cost housing markets like Santa Cruz. Mr. Mohsenin's opposition to Measure M took the form of dog-whistle racist flyers informing readers that drug gangs and other criminals would move in next door to you if the measure passed - it used an image of heavily tattooed Latinx people in prison uniforms to illustrate it's point.

In addition to his behavior as a landlord, Darius' personal history is concerning to us. A google search of his name shows an arrest for 2 counts of violating a restraining order. A short trip through the county superior court's online portal shows multiple cases of Darius being sued for civil harassment. This in addition to his behavior listed above is extremely concerning. What does it say that someone who opposes protections for already vulnerable people in this community has a history of harassment.

Darius's presence on the Council would strip it of any legitimacy as an authority on issues facing houseless people. We strongly oppose his appointment to the CACH and will take further action to prevent it.

-- SCTP