

Communication from Public

Name: Lauren Bancroft
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Council File No: 14-1635-S10

Comments for Public Posting: I'm emailing as a resident of CD2 to support all 13 recommendations made by the Housing & Homelessness Committee for Council File 14-1635-S10. The proliferation of short-term rentals has caused—according to Professor David Wachsmuth of McGill University—5000 additional people to lose their homes, meaning that people displaced by short-term rentals account for one in nine of the 45,000 unhoused people that LAHSA has been able to count. In the wake of the LA fires, thousands more people are now looking for long-term housing, and some STR hosts chose to take advantage of this by price gouging: a recent analysis by Better Neighbors LA found over 1400 instances of price-gouging on STR platforms in the wake of the fires. If we're going to be serious about tackling the issue of homelessness, and ensure that everyone in this city has a roof over their heads, then we need to address these issues with illegal short-term rentals by strengthening regulations. The private right of action and electronic verification system contained in this set of recommendations would help curb illegal STR behavior, and make it easier for the City to enforce the Home-Sharing Ordinance—potentially returning much-needed residential units back to the long-term market. That's why I'm urging you to vote YES on these common-sense recommendations and strengthen the Home-Sharing Ordinance. Lauren Bancroft
lauren.bancroft7@gmail.com 11915 Riverside Drive apt 209
Valley village, California 91607