

Google Groups

Fwd: Short-Term Rental News

Sharon Dickinson

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Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

From: **Los Angeles Short-Term Rental Coalition** <lacoalition@calodging.com>

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Subject: Short-Term Rental News

To: sharon.dickinson@lacity.org

Short-Term Rental News

Labor

Is the Gig Economy Working

The New Yorker | 5/11/17

To advocates such as Lehane, that labor-market swap is good. Instead of scrubbing bathrooms at the Hilton, you can earn directly, how and when you want. Such thinking, though, presumes that gigging people and the old working and service classes are the same, and this does not appear to be the case. A few years ago, Juliet B. Schor, a sociology professor at Boston College, interviewed forty-three mostly young people who were earning money from Airbnb, Turo (like Airbnb for car rentals), and TaskRabbit. She found that they were disproportionately white-collar and highly educated, like Seth F. A second, expanded study showed that those who relied on gigging to make a living were less satisfied than those who had other jobs and benefits and gigged for pocket money: another sign that the system was not helping those who most needed the work.

Affordable Housing

Vancouver Plans More Airbnb Limits to Ease Near-Zero Home Supply

Bloomberg | 5/5/17

Vancouver is preparing to impose more restrictions on Airbnb Inc. and other short-term rental operators as Canada's priciest housing market seeks to ease its near-zero supply of homes to let. "We're going to require a business license for anyone doing short-term rentals," Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson said Friday in an interview at Bloomberg headquarters in New York. "We don't want to see units taken out of the rental pool and not effectively taxed like all the rest of the hospitality industry."

Lawsuits & Fines

NYC City Hall fined 139 illegal Airbnb listings out of 24,000

Skift | 5/2/17

New York City Hall made little progress fighting illegal listings on Airbnb. Over the past three months inspectors fined hosts for 139 listings that violated housing laws, leaving almost 24,000 potentially illegal listings untouched. Crain's reported that it would take the city 43 years to investigate all questionable listings at the current pace.

SF Residential hotel owners sue to block legislation limiting short-term rentals

KTVU | 5/8/17

A group of residential hotel owners filed suit against the city of San Francisco today seeking to block recently approved legislation intended to make it harder for them to rent rooms to tourists. The legislation, introduced by Supervisor Aaron Peskin and approved by the Board of Supervisors in February, extends the minimum stay for single-room occupancies dictated in the city's 1981 SRO ordinance from a week to 32 days in most cases. It also steps up penalties and enforcement for hotels violating the city's rules. It was introduced in response to concerns that some SRO owners were illegally converting their properties into short-term rental units, targeting higher-paying tourists and business travelers rather than the lower-income residents who have traditionally relied on SROs for affordable housing.

City & State Action

How does Airbnb's deal with SF work?

San Francisco Chronicle | 5/11/17

San Francisco is entering a new era in its often-contentious relationship with Airbnb and HomeAway. Under judicial pressure, the two vacation-rental companies this month agreed to help the city register hosts who rent homes and rooms to tourists. While the city has required vacation hosts to register since February 2015, only about 2,100 out of more than 8,000 have done so. Now with the cooperation of the two largest companies operating here, registration will become universal by Jan. 4.

Airbnb opens Florida political committee with \$1 million

Florida Politics | 5/12/17

Airbnb, the online marketplace that allows people to find and rent vacation homes, has formed a political committee in Florida, state campaign finance records show. "People versus the Powerful" was formed April 6 for the purpose of "supporting or opposing statewide, legislative, multi-county and local candidates," according to its statement of organization.

Airbnb rentals in NYC would get a boost under proposed legislation

Curbed New York | 5/5/17

A new bill that could potentially create more Airbnb rentals in New York City is now at the center of a battle between state legislators, the Wall Street Journal reports. Backed by State Assemblyman Joseph Lentol (D), who represents parts of Greenpoint and Williamsburg, the bill seeks to legalize rentals under 30 days when the host is away, as long as the host registers with the state, and only rents one apartment at a time.

Crime

Airbnb Suspends Istanbul Host After Police Evict British Guests from Apartment

The Guardian | 5/11/17

Airbnb, the accommodation-sharing service, has apologised after a dawn raid on an apartment in Istanbul in which two British guests were detained and interrogated. Turkish police took action in a dispute over whether the company had the right to rent out the property. Tom Duggan, 36, from London, told The Times that the pair were woken at dawn by seven police officers. "Eventually they explained that the owner was renting the apartment illegally and either he wasn't paying tax or hadn't registered it."

I was conned by a fraudster pretending to be an Airbnb host

The Guardian | 5/8/17

I used the Airbnb website for the first time a month ago to look for accommodation for a family trip to Amsterdam. The first listing in the search results looked promising, and I clicked on a

link to contact the "host" and inquire about availability. The ensuing email exchange led to my agreeing to pay €1,400 (£1,182.23) for a five-night stay plus deposit by bank transfer, and a plausible confirmation email complete with Airbnb logos arrived. In the days before our flight I had no response to emails sent to the host, and discovered Airbnb had no record of the booking. I booked a hotel instead and started a complaint to Airbnb. Its response was that I should have known it was a scam and it was nothing to do with them. It also declined my invitation to make a goodwill gesture.

City Character

Boozy tourists on cheap breaks with Ryanair and AirBnB are ruining historic European cities like Amsterdam

The Sun | 5/8/17

The drunken tourists aren't the only problem - according to Frans, the rise of AirBnB is also spoiling the character of the city by turning areas into a ghost town. He said: "There are so many Airbnb rentals in the [Amsterdam] canal district that the city becomes empty. "The sharing economy is really a big threat. Airbnb is a billion-dollar company that is destroying cities."

Growth

Airbnb Looks to Latin America, Now Its Fastest-Growing Market

Bloomberg | 5/12/17

As Airbnb Inc. turns its attention to Latin America, the often-combative company is taking an unusual approach. It's giving local governments what they want. The home and apartment-rental company said it will collect and remit taxes in Mexico City, the first such arrangement in Latin America. Airbnb will provide 3 percent of revenue generated from bookings in Mexico City to the city's government. Hotels there also pay a 3 percent lodging tax to local officials.

Our coalition represents workers, neighbors, tenants, lodging associations, employers and affordable housing advocates. We stand united behind responsible and appropriate regulation of the short-term rental (STR) industry in Los Angeles.

Short-Term Rental Coalition consisting of AH&LA, CH&LA, Hotel Assoc. of LA, Keep Neighborhoods First, LAANE, UNITE HERE Local 11, and other neighborhood, business and community groups, 414 29th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

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