

16 April, 2017

Dear Mr. O'Farrell,

Re: Proposed Ordinance regulating home sharing and short term rentals CF# 14-1635-S2:

I am writing to you as a 21 year resident and homeowner in District 13. My wife and I share our home through short term rentals on the AirBnB platform. We list 3 bedrooms in our 6 bedroom house above Sunset Blvd. Home sharing via the short term rental business model provides a modest income to my wife - a survivor of very late stage cervical cancer. She is otherwise unable to work outside of our home due to physical limitations imposed by severe pelvic radiation damage to her bladder & bowels.

I've read the proposed ordinance regarding short-term rentals in residential zones. As it stands now, the ordinance is unfairly restrictive and disproportionately punitive to people who share their homes. The proposed regulations are counterproductive to people who are trying to use their primary residence to make ends meet. They are also counterintuitive to the "American Dream" and in trying to be self-sufficient, especially for those of us who are managing a disability, health issue, loss of employment, and/or living on a fixed income.

My wife and I are in favor of sensible regulation, but we are strongly opposed to the ordinance as it's currently written on the following points, among many:

- The restriction limiting the number of days allowed per year is unnecessary and prohibitive to making home sharing a viable business venture. No other business model is limited on how many days which business can be conducted per year.
- The restriction limiting the number of rooms being rented out at one time is too restrictive. Again, there is no other business model which limits how much business is allowed to be generated.
- The above-listed limitations will negatively impact revenue to the city of LA by reducing the amount of occupancy tax which AirBnB can collect for the city.
- The proposed fees and penalties are excessively punitive. Fees and penalties should be determined according to those imposed on businesses with comparable revenues. As per the current ordinance, a home sharing host could mistakenly violate one of the rules and be required to pay back more money in penalties than what they could potentially earn in several months.

Many home sharing hosts make ends meet and/or earn a modest living by renting rooms to short term guests.

- We provide a needed service – ie: affordable housing while travelers are visiting Los Angeles.
- We also provide a specific desired experience which is not available when staying at a hotel. If there were not such a widespread demand for this service, AirBnB would not be such a thriving business.
- Efforts by homeowners and renters to support themselves in their own homes should be encouraged – not stifled through overly restrictive legislation.

Furthermore, short term rentals in primary residences bring much-needed dollars to local businesses.

- Guests spend money in our local restaurants, boutiques, bars, and clubs on Sunset & Silverlake Blvd's.

In closing – please consider minimal restrictions when implementing regulations for home sharing and short term rentals. Many of us depend on this for income and we manage our businesses seriously, thoughtfully, and responsibly.

Sincerely,

Ben Crisologo

~Silverlake resident & homeowner for 21+ years



Dear Councilman,

I understand that the city has been working to create an ordinance that would regulate short term rentals in L.A, and that there is resistance and pushback by some who are trying to support severe restrictions.

I am a home owner who lives in my house and home shares my guest house. For the most part, my guests are either here working short term, visiting family, or on vacation. I've even had several who wanted to just escape an east coast winter for a while. Home sharing provides a short term fix for those who would like to travel but would not be able to afford a hotel for this amount of time. These people contribute to the economy of Los Angeles. They shop at local stores and businesses, eat at local restaurants, and may even get a manicure at a local nail salon. I am constantly asked for restaurant and shopping suggestions which I am happy to give. On the opposite end, home sharing allows me to afford my mortgage and property taxes. It also allows me to give back to the economy by hiring painters to paint my house, tree trimmers, landscapers and contractors for upgrades. I can assure you that if I was not able to home share I would not be able to hire anyone and would struggle just to pay my mortgage and taxes let alone contribute to the economy of this city.

I've lived in LA for almost 25 years. I actually rented and lived in a guest house when I first arrived here. I found a personal ad by the home owner looking to rent it. Hasn't that been part of the Los Angeles story for decades, people coming here and living in a guest house for a while?

I am urging you to create sensible, fair laws that protect community members like me. People who own their homes and choose to home share to make ends meet and to contribute back to the economy.

Sincerely,  
Darien T.

To whom it may concern:

I am Ian Young from Westlake Neighborhood of Los Angeles. I support my neighbors who home share and am opposed to the portions of proposed ordinance that limit what people can do within their own primary residence. I am particularly concerned about the limiting of the number of days people can home share and how many listings within their home they can have active at one time. Also of concern are the clauses that would prohibit hosts from other work related activities and the limitations on rent controlled units within primary living spaces. I also oppose the prohibitions against home sharing in residences that have been converted to single family dwellings and that such restrictions should not apply unless a tenant was removed by the current owner via an Ellis Act eviction.

I am also opposed to the criminalization of home sharing as proposed in the ordinance. Making home sharing a misdemeanor offense is an outrageous misappropriation of the court system and a violation of basic human rights.

Home sharing keeps people in their homes, provides jobs and stimulates the rest of the economy. We all benefit from this enterprise and it should be supported.



Ian Young  
685 Lucas Ave.  
#507  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Member of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (DLANC)

Dear Councilman Krekorian,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

My wife and I are musicians working 6 jobs between us (3 and 3) and even with that we are struggling to make ends meet and pay our mortgage. We have been doing Airbnb for nearly five years now , and if it weren't for that we would be in dire straights. My wife, who had the bright idea to fix up our house and make it presentable for Airbnb clients, really saved the day with her efforts and they have paid off.

In today's economy the little guy needs to figure out how he/she can survive in today's harsh reality. Airbnb for us has been. A lifesaver. Please do no. Not enact legislation that will hurt the little guy; we're struggling enough.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours,

AK and MJM

Dear Councilmember Krekorian,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

I have lived with kidney disease my entire life and have been in and out of hospitals since I was a kid. With monthly infusion treatments at cedar sinai and constant doctor appointments it is tough for me to come up with enough money at the end of every month. The ability to rent out my apartment is really the best way for me to make a an extra buck while still taking care of my own health and well being. I have lived here for the past 6 years, originally from the east coast, where all my family still is. I live alone and I do my best to support myself. No matter how hard it gets, I love it here. The type of medical treatment I receive here is by far the best I have ever had. I could not fathom not being able to afford living here. Please consider your decision and how it will effect my future.

Thank you again,

Adam

Dear Mr. Krekorian

I am an Air B&B host. I love it as I use my guest house which is located on my property .

I am semi retired and decided I would love to meet people from other parts of the USA or abroad . I am able to monitor my guests and have had only respectful clients. I feel to regulate away this opportunity for the majority of hosts because of an inconsiderate few is what is wrong with so many public policies. The hotel business has such high prices that many people could not afford to stay in a nice area like studio city and I am allowing people to enjoy a lovely cottage in a beautiful neighbor hood. When I travel this year to Europe I can't wait to use Air B&B so I too can immerse myself in the customs and culture of the countries I visit .

My suggestion is to isolate clearly the problems and create solutions that are relevant to the unique problem . I have heard rumors that Air B& B is contributing to homelessness . I feel that this kind of simplistic blaming is not attached to real facts. This is a multi faceted problem .

Where there are problems of poor supervision the hosts with complaints from the police should be expelled from air B&B hosting. The solutions are there we just need an authentic willingness on the part of the government to seek them. Many of us hosts are retired and beyond the social aspect are benefitting from our association financially as well.

I hope you are motivated to find the right solution for all.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Elliott

22427 CLARENDON ST. WOODLAND HILLS CA 91367

April 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

Subject: Home sharing Legislation.

Dear Councilmember Bob Blumenfield,

I'm a Woodland Hills homeowner with great neighbors in a lovely neighborhood. I'm an "almost retired" Costumer in the LA film business (and can vouch that it's not glamorous one bit!)

I was diagnosed with a rare cancer within months of moving here, so I started renting my house, while I received treatment and was unable to work. I have been an Airbnb and VRBO host for 3 years and it has been a way of creating of income, as well as an expanding and happy experience.

I have continued to do this, on occasions and this alone has enabled me to retain the house and maintain it. I have no doubts that I would have been forced to sell with out this valuable opportunity. I am so grateful.

The guests, from all over the globe, have used Woodland Hills as a base from which to explore all LA has to offer and also love the local bakeries, cafes and retail therapy in Topanga Mall. They have all, bar none, been respectful and followed "House Rules". That the nextdoor neighbors remain friends is proof of the low impact of house sharing here.

Many guests state they'd far rather have the relaxed, "whole home" stay, where they can cook, BBQ and have family over, than be in hotel accommodation. It's a very different kind of vacation.

While I welcome clear guidelines and regulation to protect communities, I hope that restrictions are not imposed on the amount of nights we are able to rent to guests.

I look forward to the next council meeting.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Faraday Young

Los Angeles City Council Member Paul Koretz  
6380 Wilshire Blvd #800, Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear Council Member Paul Koretz,

My husband and I own a 4 plex in the Beverlywood area. We live in the very large owner's unit. We sometimes rent our own home as a vacation rental. This gives us extra money to travel. We think that having our home occupied while we're traveling is safer than leaving it empty. It also provides a unique service to our community. About half of our guests are relatives of members of the Orthodox Jewish community here who wish to rent a home close to family. Also, our home has 3 bedrooms and 3 baths, so it can accommodate families of 6 to 8 people, which is highly desired. Hotels do not offer equivalent accommodations.

Our other 3 apartments are rented on 1 year leases. However, one of our apartments is occupied by 3 students from Sweden. They go home for the summer. For the last few summers we have arranged with them to take over their apartment for 2 months while they're gone. Then we either occupy that apartment ourselves or rent it out to vacationers. This has worked out very well for us. As a retired couple, these arrangements have been able to help us earn the extra money to upgrade our 4 plex. It has also made it possible for us to set aside money for the seismic retrofit we will be starting soon.

In no way is what we've been doing harming our neighborhood or decreasing the amount of affordable housing in our area. I ask you to please vote against any restrictions on home sharing when they come up before the City Council.

Thank you very much,

Dear Council Member Nury Martinez,

I realize there has been much resistance to Airbnb rentals, and the city is working on an ordinance to regulate short term rentals.

I live in Lake Balboa since 2009.

I moved in with my boyfriend and my son. Since then my son has gone off to college and my boyfriend has been ill now for 3 years and unable to work full time.

A friend told me about Airbnb and I was very resistant at the time but finding it impossible to pay the mortgage and bills. I love my house and Im hoping to live here many more years to come!

I started renting my sons vacant room out about 2 1/2 years ago. This has enabled me to pay the mortgage and make improvements to the property including beautiful drought tolerant landscaping. I have met many wonderful people from all over the world like Bogota Columbia, Belgium, Barcelona, Slovakia and Italy just to name a few.

These people usually come here to study and contribute greatly to our economy by frequenting businesses, schools, markets, restaurants and cultural sights. I've been so impressed by these people and have learned much about other cultures.

Many, if not all of them would be unable to travel if they had to stay in a hotel or motel. They also would not be able to spend as much at the many smaller businesses they frequent. Small Taco stands, Salsa and Beer, Vallarta Market, Jons Market and many other local spots close to my home.

I prefer when someone stays 1-3 months or longer, yet a permanent roommate may not work out so well, if we are not compatible it could be very uncomfortable. Please Nury, please work to create fair laws that will help people like me and those who come here to study and spend!

I am praying for a fair outcome.

Sincerely,  
Julianne Hall

Dear Sir,

This letter is in support of a program in the District I have been told you represent. This Home Sharing program I feel the City of Los Angeles really should not be trying to stop or shorten the days they can rent their rooms. I am opposed to any ordinance that can limit or try to control what people can do within their own private residence. If you want to do that, then-help-them pay their mortgages and bills then there would be no need for them to rent rooms or you trying to stop them from doing just that. Who gave anyone the power to run someone else's home and tell them when where, what and how-long they can have guests in their home and whether or not they can charge them for staying. As long as the government, the City and/or the State get the taxes and excessive fees they charge, why can't they just be happy, don't worry and leave the American people alone. Enough is enough!

Please Hear the People's Cries for You Help

Mary Greene  
8937 Ramsgate Avenue  
Westchester, CA 90045

Dear Councilman

I am writing you to let you know that I support home sharing in our beautiful historic enclave of West Adams in Los Angeles.

My husband and I have resided in our home for 17 years. Our home is somewhat a historical property built in 1908. Since we have lived here we have strived to restore it in every possible way. However, not until we started home sharing with Airbnb in 2015 have we been able to do more extensive work such as painting the exterior and replacing stained glass, etc. This work could not have been done without the extra income derived from home sharing with Airbnb.

Our neighborhood has thrived since Airbnb was introduced. We have hosted people from all over the world and they all say that they would not have experienced the diversity and beauty of this wonderful part of Los Angeles if not for home sharing.

My husband is a musician and frequently invites our guests to participate in art and entertainment activities in the area that they would otherwise not be aware of.

Since our incomes are basically fixed, as my husband is now in his sixties, this has become the much needed, added income to maintain our home. We hope that you will advocate for home sharing in Los Angeles and draft fair legislation that will support the home sharing community in Los Angeles. Thank you

Highest Regards,

La Donna Bennett

I am a resident of District 10 and support worthy causes such as the Airbnb Short-Term Housing Program and I do care and speak out about neighborhood.

For the past year or so my neighbor has been renting rooms on short term basis because she has been as many, struggling to pay the mortgage, increasing utilities and other bills associated with maintaining a home in the Los Angeles area.

I live directly across the street from this home and I have on occasions seen and had the opportunity to speak to some of the guests coming in with luggage or leaving with their luggage. If not for that I wouldn't even know they are there.

There have been people of all nationalities visiting with her and I will say, they have been very quiet and given us no reason for concern on this block. I actually park in front of the home at night and I have not even heard any noises coming from the house in the day or at night.

I have lived in my home over 40 years and she asked me to share my thoughts and feelings on her renting her rooms. In my opinion she does a better job with her guests than some of our neighbors do with their family and friends, especially the ones that have monthly renters in their homes. I think what she is doing is great and it's nice to see new and friendly faces every now and then in the area.

Thank you for Listening

Lois Charquois  
4139 2nd avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 9008

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of Los Angeles View Park Community and I care very much about our neighborhoods and I support worth causes such as Airbnb Short Term Housing Program.

I have a very good friend that for years was residing in a 4 bedroom residence with her uncle and her cousin. Unfortunately, her uncle passed away and the remaining two have been struggling to pay the mortgage, the ever increasing utilities and other bills associated with maintaining a home.

I know for a fact she tried renting out the extra bedroom which caused even more undue stress. The renter didn't pay on time or just didn't pay at all. By the Grace of God someone introduced her to the Airbnb short-term rental program last year.

Airbnb was the perfect answer; my friend is not forced into any landlord verses tenant issues. Airbnb does the locating of the temporary guests, verifying stages, negotiating and collecting of funds. She no longer has need for a friend or stranger living with her on a full time basis (which also ran the utility bills higher).

She expressed concern that the City is fighting this gift to those who need a little help to stay in their homes. I am giving you my take on the situation and it is to "Please help these people they are trying to may ends meet", we have enough homeless people on the streets. Let them hustle while they still have the muscle to do so. They are only trying to pay their bills and keep their homes.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Marquerite Williams  
4740 Mullen Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90043

Dear Councilmember Bonin,

Several years ago, I began questioning how I could support myself through my art and singing talents, as I'd done at other points in my life. I had worked as an illustrator throughout my 20's and as an artist and a singer into my late 30's.

In 2002, at age 40, I came to Los Angeles from New York City, on a temporary work assignment that ended that October. Post 9-11 creative work in NYC was almost nonexistent, and I quickly decided to relocate here. It took several months to find viable work, until mid-2003, when I answered a bulletin board ad to assist a local decorative interior painter. I was her primary assistant (as an independent contractor) from June 2003 until a few years ago. This involved working on (sometimes precarious) high ladders and scaffolds and much of the work was done on ceilings. A year or so into it, a high extension ladder give way beneath me, causing a fall whose impact injured my right shoulder. Though I continued working a full schedule after the accident, I experience considerable pain in that shoulder, to this day. In later years, the work grew increasingly less consistent and I had to find other ways to make ends meet. The work also became more strenuous (mainly overhead, on ceilings) and my employer began hiring younger assistants. It got to the point where I could barely endure the strain of a full week of ceiling work and I phased out of working with this painter altogether. Though I had occasional illustration and painting projects of my own, I was always unsure whether or not I'd meet my expenses, month to month.

I first learned about Airbnb on an out-of-town job with my employer, when we stayed at an Airbnb listing. I visited the web site and wondered whether this was for me or not. I was reluctant at first, then set up a profile. After some time, bookings became more consistent and I began experiencing relief from scrambling to pay my bills. I began writing and performing my own stage shows, which led to a recent opportunity to record an album (my first ever) of songs by a local composer/lyricist. My income from art & singing fluctuates greatly and Airbnb hosting has allowed my creativity to endure and thrive. It has been a huge blessing in my life and providing this affordable service for people who want to visit the area is a continually heartwarming experience. Some of my favorite guests have been visiting parents of locals whose housing is too small for their parents to stay with them. Providing a clean, safe space for families to reunite is more satisfying than I could have ever imagined. The guests have been so friendly, kind, appreciative and overall respectful, that my neighbors are very pleased and supportive of how this endeavor has improved my life.

Venice is widely known as a haven for creative artists and musicians. As an artist who lives in the Venice area, it seems vital for creative individuals like me to be able to maintain a sustainable living, within the community. Even with Airbnb, my income is modest and a cap will likely lead to fiscal uncertainty. As a rent-stabilized tenant, I am not one who buys up buildings and displaces prior residents. My guests don't tear the neighborhood down, they enrich and uplift it. Pass lenient legislation, making it easy for hosts like me who find home sharing a boon for all concerned, allowing us to continue to benefit from this blessing. Most of all, please keep the Creative Soul of Venice and the great City of Los Angeles alive!

Thank you for your time,  
A. D., District 11 Resident

## AIRBNB

Dear Counsel,

My name is Anita and I am a home owner in the Venice beach area of Los Angeles. This home is 2,000sqft, 3 bedrooms and perfect for large families to vacation together in an area that has very little provided in ways of hotel accommodation. Choices are limited so tourists love my home as it provides a kitchen and separate sleeping quarters for a family of 6-8. It provides the safety of a front yard for kids to play and be safe.

This home is my 2<sup>nd</sup> home and I do not reside there. I use my income from Airbnb guests to pay the mortgage. I rent it out all days of the year and it ranges from short term stays for only a few days to long stays. If any restriction from the City are put in place restricting days I can rent it immediately will affect my ability to pay mortgage and I will be forced to sell. I cannot rent/lease this home for the amount I need to cover mortgage. I've researched the rental rates and I will be at a loss every month.

The decision made with impending laws will affect me directly and I hope you allow me to continue paying taxes on the income I earn and allow me to contribute locally for tourism. If my home didn't exist with Airbnb less tourist would frequent this area. I am one home among many this contributes this way and we are providing a value service to the community.

Thank you,

Anita. P

Venice California.

Subject: Protect Home Sharing Council File #14-1635-S2

Councilmember Mike Bonin:

I am a 64 year old woman who has lived in Los Angeles all of my life. I was recently laid off after 29 years working in a law office, and now must be creative in covering my costs of living, as well as purchasing my own health insurance.

I am a **3<sup>rd</sup> generation Venetian** who sees and knows first-hand the charm and uniqueness of the Venice & West Los Angeles Community. Most of my large Venice family still lives nearby in homes that they have happily owned and enjoyed for years. (My parents' home, built 70 years ago, is still owned and occupied by our youngest brother -same home for all of his 54 years!)

Having been recently widowed, I lost my partner in life - the one who was also "Mr Fix-it".

My home sharing experience has provided me with the funds to **upgrade**, to enjoy, and to keep our 93-year old property (with my children/grandchildren), and to **maintain the curb appeal** that my neighborhood and community deserves.

(As beautiful as some of the newer homes are, it's the MIX with the original charm of the older homes remaining that makes the Venice community unique and so desirable for us – and for visitors from all over the world!)

This "single-family residence" , which has housed four different generations of our family (at one time or another) for over 44 years, is now welcoming families from all over the world! It has been my daughter Katy's primary residence for 15 years. It has brought us great joy and satisfaction to be able to share **the home and the town that we love so much**. We enjoy giving personal recommendations for our guests to enjoy the many local & independent venues near us, as well as knowing how excited they are to visit the many remaining attractions that Los Angeles and Southern California have to offer. **We are our city's strongest advocates/cheerleaders!** We see that home sharing is an affordable and enticing option for our visitors – especially those with children, or traveling with the elderly, and that brings us great joy and satisfaction. It's such an important and sensible thing to do.. **families helping families!**

We had a recent inquiry from a neighbor, hoping that his visiting brother's family, on their first extended U.S. visit, could rent our home so they could be close by - to see and to enjoy his home as well. We see this as such a blessing for all ... and it makes such sense!

The **180-day limit** does not seem fair and does not make good sense. It would not solve the problem of the "occasional" unpleasant guest, or the disgruntled neighbor, or any concerned community members. This unfair constraint would force homeowners (and the City Treasury) to lose out on the remaining 185 days – WHY?... It could possibly force homeowners to rent out the remaining 185 days to "monthly lessees" where there is greater risk of making the neighbors miserable over a long-term guest who can't

be removed short of the stress of litigation, and all the time and money it requires! This would result in loss of income for the homeowner/host as well as loss of Los Angeles City Tax revenue.

We do believe in regulations and I want to work with the City to keep home sharing a positive and fruitful venture, and to **protect the rights of all**. Please make this process simple with common sense legislation that will not limit home-sharing to 180 days each year.... that does not limit a "good thing" for its most loyal and invested (long-time) citizens!

Thank you for considering my situation and my concerns.

Sincerely,

Barbara Barnes

To Whom It May Concern:

I know that being a member of Los Angeles governmental system you often have little time so I want to thank you for taking a moment to read this letter. I have been an Airbnb host for over four years in two separate apartments in Santa Monica and in Venice Beach. In each case, I lived in the apartment on a permanent basis and only rented out a spare bedroom. Also, in each case, I never earned more through Airbnb than the rent I paid on a monthly basis.

In Santa Monica I was living with my girlfriend whom I eventually married. When that happened, our roommate moved out and we both chose not to have another roommate move in—as is the natural course when a couple gets married. We lived in a rent stabilized apartment but even with rent control the cost of the apartment was above our means so we Airbnb'd that room to allow us to stay in our apartment.

Unfortunately in 2013, my wife and I separated and I moved out. I was put in a situation where I needed to find an apartment immediately and the costs of apartments in that area had risen so dramatically that I couldn't afford to live in the same area on my own. Because of how quick the situation happened, I wasn't able to find both an apartment *and* a roommate to share the rent with so I again turned to Airbnb for help. I have lived in this apartment now for 2 years and I am still relying on Airbnb guests to help me pay my rent. Last year I rented out my spare room for 267 days out of the year and 100% of my proceeds went to helping me pay my rent. This apartment is also under rent control (RSO) and yet again it is well beyond my financial capabilities despite the rent control.

I write to you to *please consider* the negative ramifications that a 180-day cap on short-term rentals will have on individuals like myself--a resident in Venice and Santa Monica for over six years. If measure passes I simply will not be able to live in this apartment and will be forced to move out.

As a documentary filmmaker, I am also part of the community of artists that make Venice unique, creative, and diverse and that's something that draws people from all over the world here. But I'm seeing a sea change in the community right now. Real estate investment groups are buying up many of the small bungalow houses (that once defined Venice) and turning them into multi-million dollar box houses for sale. This is taking many of the rentals off the market and pricing out many of the artists who have helped make Venice what it is. Those left must find other means to keep up with the aggressive rise in rents and Airbnb has been imperative in this regard.

I lived in San Francisco for two years and know that it is a far more densely populated rental market than in Los Angeles. If they can have a no-cap system for short-term rentals in addition to allowing those with RSO apartments to use this service then I'm wondering why Los Angeles can't have that as well?

Airbnb is not a means for making money for me—it's a means by which I can survive in this area. I live here. I work here. This is my home and if these ordinances pass my whole world will be greatly impacted. Furthermore, hosting through Airbnb has expanded my horizons both socially and in my professional career. I have exchanged email addresses and phone numbers of dozens of guests from around the globe. This past March I met up with a former guest in their hometown of Vancouver, BC and we had lunch and they gave me a walking tour of Yale Town where they live. Professionally, I now have business ties with a talented guest from Azerbaijan that owns his own animation studio in his hometown of Baku. Had there been a cap on my rental, these ties may not have been made.

I implore you to *please* consider AGAINST imposing a 180-day cap on short-term rentals as well as restriction on those of us like me who have RSO apartments. "Rent Control" simply does not mean "affordable" these days, especially in areas of LA like Venice where the surge of tech companies have driven up rental prices and pushed out many of those who make up the fabric of what has made this part of town so desirable to live.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Fallentine". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brett Fallentine

To Whom it May Concern,

The ability to be a host with AirBnB has enabled me to find stable and secure long term room mates for 1 month or more.

This service has provided me and a number of other residences I know in LA the means to live in a great community and look to share a household for periods of the year.

It is in my mind the most reliable and safest way to source room-share occupancy.

Regards,

Brett Gavin

M: +1 (310) 648 4922

E: brett.gavin@hotmail.com

To Whom It May Concern;

I started hosting on Airbnb out of necessity. As a single parent I have had to find ways to supplement my income in order to provide for my family. As a high school administrator my funds are limited but not low enough to receive financial aid. Therefore, my son's college tuition was truly a hardship. But I attended a community meeting sponsored by Airbnb hosts that changed my life. I learned how to host and turned my guesthouse into a much needed income avenue. Thanks to that income I was able to keep my head above water.

I know that my story is not unique. Many people use venues like Airbnb to survive. Hosting is not a hobby. It's something many of us do in order to be able to pay our bills and provide for our families. The proposed regulations will really hinder the opportunity for those of us that need the income. I ask that you please consider our plea to allow us to continue our work through Airbnb without added regulations.

I would be happy to share more of my experience as a host or answer any questions.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Carmen Vazquez

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April 26, 2017  
Mr. Mitchell Englander  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilman Englander:

I am writing to you today as a concerned constituent and a responsible Airbnb host. I understand that the Council is considering legislation that would prohibit or severely restrict certain kinds of home sharing through services like Airbnb. I believe that Airbnb has been a great boon to people who travel and to the communities that they visit. I wanted to share with you my experiences so that you can learn that most Airbnb hosts are conscientious, caring and valuable members of their communities.

In 2015 my wife's was failing in health and we built "mother-in-law quarters" behind our house. She wanted her privacy and we needed her close by in order to take proper care of her. We spared no expense and created a wonderful living space for her. She didn't want to leave her home but when she saw how nice it looked she was pleased. Unfortunately she was sicker than any of us knew and when she was finally diagnosed with advanced cancer she had only a few weeks to live and we had to bring her into a bedroom in our home.

We had spent quite a bit of money on the guest house and now had no purpose for it. We didn't want to become landlords and long term renters so Airbnb looked like a convenient option for us. Since early 2016 we have been renting out our guest house to vacation travelers and they love the cozy atmosphere that we have created with our casita in the back. We love hosting and meeting new people and they mostly love meeting us as well. Because Airbnb allows hosts and guests to rate each other, there is a self-policing process available to everyone in the Airbnb community. This keeps both guests and hosts on their best behavior. If a guest trashes a place or if a host does not have sanitary conditions, they will quickly be weeded out of the system because of the stringent review process.

Right now I have retired and keeping my home would be difficult if it were not for the income that I can bring in through my Airbnb rental. I also know that I pay taxes or fees through Airbnb to the city which makes me feel good about my business and the revenue that it brings the city.

Please do not support legislation that would restrict my ability to rent my property on Airbnb. I hope you will see that the local Airbnb hosts are valuable members of our community and any laws that would restrict our freedom would hurt us and the communities that we live in. Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Gary P.

Dear Councilman,

I am aware that there has been and currently is some very intense controversy regarding short term rental of residence spaces in Los Angeles, neighboring cities and notably in New York and San Francisco, through the Airbnb organization.

I would like to speak directly to this issue from my experience as a Host of Airbnb over the last four and a half years here in Los Angeles.

Before I do, I'd like to share a little about myself. I have lived and worked in Los Angeles since 1970. Most of my life I have been self-employed as a general contractor and also a realtor however in my youth I worked in Los Angeles as an organizer with others in my community to provide much needed services. Together, with friends and committed community members, we established a child care center, food co-op, community law offices and other supportive services in the Echo Park and Silver Lake areas. Building and working with/in community has been a critical focus of my life and work.

I am now 67 years old and am proudly involved in building and connecting with networks of communities worldwide through Airbnb as a Host. Not only am I able to support myself, but I am able to share life, experiences and my amazing Echo Park/LA community with people from all over the world who have a keen interest in visiting and exploring Los Angeles and learning about our culture here. Airbnb came into my life just when I needed it! My financial reserves for retirement had been exhausted as the result of caring for my elderly parents. I was quite despairing as to how I was going to be able to provide for myself as I turned 65. A friend mentioned Airbnb as a possibility. I explored the idea for several weeks and decided to give it a try. It was possible to start up this wonderful business with a minimum outlay of cash and with low overhead. I also went to the LA City Department of Finance and obtained a business license as a short term residence provider and paid my Transient Tax and have continued to do so every month. So in a very short period of time, using only my existing resources, I was able to pull myself out of a financial crisis, generate steady and solid monthly income, provide a warm and welcoming local experience to visitors willing to spend lots of vacation dollars in LA, and provide a steady stream of cash to the LA City Finance coffers. I have made improvements to my property and its street appeal and have grown more knowledgeable of the resources and businesses in my community so that I can better inform my guests of what is available to them on their stay. I can truly say that I am an avid supporter of my local business as an Airbnb host. My guests also enlighten me as to what local businesses they have tried and loved. This completes the circle of synergistic and energetic involvement that I and my guests provide to my community through our involvement with Airbnb as I am able to give our combined feedback to my local businesses, along with any constructive feedback. More than any other money making career that I have had over the years, my Airbnb involvement has dramatically increased by connection to my community in the most positive, interactive ways.

Airbnb's support for their Hosts and Guests is impeccable and 24/7. Their internet infrastructure is mind-blowingly empowering and they are all about community and connection worldwide. In my mind they are one of the most powerful and positive worldwide organizations for building peace and genuine international people to people relationships, that exists. Because their peer review system is integral to the Airbnb process, most hosts and guests are very concerned about being good citizens and this creates positive social awareness throughout the Airbnb "culture".

Airbnb is at the forefront of providing leadership in establishing an exceedingly positive model for what the "Sharing Community" can be. There are always challenges when an old paradigm begins to dissolve and a new one takes its place. Fear seems to be at the forefront of this kind of change. As you know, I am sure, a reactive expression of fear often emanates from lack of knowledge and experience with the "New". Please do not allow fear to play a role in any decision you may make regarding Airbnb. Please listen to those of us in your community who are grounded in the Airbnb experience. Please talk to my neighbors and find out what is really going on. This is the most positive work life experience I have ever had. My neighbors are very supportive of me and refer me to friends and family. Because of Airbnb I am now much more connected to my neighbors than I was before. I now know when new baby community members are about to be born because their grandparents stay at my airbnb "Cottage" and make return visits to see these new little "Echo Parkians". I get to be a part of these families in a genuinely connected way.

I respectfully submit that Airbnb is a community builder and strengthener. Myself, my community and my business community would feel a profoundly negative effect if we lost the Airbnb connection and the City of LA would lose a very positive cash flow source as well as a good will generating positive business partner. Please support Airbnb because through its existence it truly empowers both local and worldwide community people in the most positive ways and on so many dense, rich levels.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Stephanie Woods

562-244-7229

Airbnb Host

My family and I stayed in Los Angeles for 8 weeks earlier this year. Throughout that time we stayed in two apartments through Air B&B. Without doubt, had we not been able to use short term housing we would never have stayed for that amount of time, or perhaps gone on the trip at all. Not only would a hotel or similar been too expensive, but with three children we needed the space the rentals offered. It made it affordable to be there for that amount of time and be able to visit attractions, restaurants and shopping during our stay.

We were planning on returning later in the year but only if we can stay at similar accommodation.

Many thanks

Adam R  
U.K.

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the city has been working on creating an ordinance that would regulate short term rentals in Los Angeles. As the city is working on the ordinance, I would like to submit my personal story about how the home sharing community has helped me and my family throughout the years. But first, let me give a brief history about myself. I am deeply involved with my community. My husband and I volunteer for multiple community organizations and I manage a vegetable/learning garden at a neighborhood title one school. I am a mother of an 8-year-old, I grew up in the community I now serve and am passing the torch of community service to my young son.

I have exhaustively attended multiple Airbnb (home share) meetings, information sessions, question and answer forums, etc. To date, I have not changed my position that home sharing should continue to be a viable option for responsible property owners. I urge you to work on creating sensible, fair laws that protect community members like me, which will allow long-term residence to use their homes with this service to aide in the payment of their mortgage, dues and property taxes. In 2010, our family faced financially challenging times when I became unemployed, while my husband was struggling to get his business off the ground. Without this extra income, our family would not have been able to stay in Los Angeles.

Most of my guests come to Los Angeles to spend time with their families, or are transplanting from other states and are exploring neighborhoods before buying a home. My guests typically stay for 31 days or more. Therefore, I strongly disagree with the argument that Airbnb creates a transient effect. These people spend money locally. They explore restaurants, use grocery stores, take in a show, frequent coffee shops, and the list goes on.

I have personally had the pleasure of meeting some of the most delightful people on this planet. Currently, I have a beautiful 5-year-old girl staying in my two bedroom apartment with her family. She will be here for two months while she undergoes her second round of chemotherapy at Children's Hospital. She has been approved for a trial study and this is her last chance at battling her cancer. I am so grateful that she and her family will be able to have a place to call home, instead of a hotel, during this difficult process.

Please consider all these benefits home sharing has to offer. It has brought our community closer and has the potential to create a revenue stream for the city as a whole. We are now a global community and Airbnb is one of the most valuable platforms that bring people together.

Sincerely,

Andrea Barbosa

To whom it may concern,

I taught fourth grade at LAUSD for twenty years and retired two years ago. I have been an Airbnb host in council district 15 for a year and a half. The income from Airbnb has supplemented my retirement income so I can now make ends meet. If Airbnb's policy changed to a 180 day cap per year, this would be a financial burden for me.

I have had guests stay with me from all over the world. They have contributed to the local economy by frequenting neighborhood restaurants, grocery stores, clothing stores and movies theaters. I started Airbnb for financial reasons, but I have learned through this process the best part of Airbnb are the relationships. Now I have extended family in Turkey, Alabama, and Italy!

Airbnb is a win-win- win situation. The guest, the local economy and the host all benefit from this service.

Thank you,

N. Woods

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