



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

14-0593

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
 To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:58 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lewin Wertheimer** <lewin@wertheimer-architect.com>

Date: Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:56 AM

Subject: Sharing Economy to be Considered at PLUM Committee Meeting 08/19/2014 at 2:30 PM -

To: councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org

Cc: Sharon.Gin@lacity.org, Lewin Wertheimer <lewin@wertheimer-architect.com>

Reference Council file no 13-0593

PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS EDWARD R. ROYBAL HEARING ROOM 350 - 2:30 PM

200 NORTH SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

MEMBERS: COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR, CHAIR -councilmember.huizar@lacity.org
 COUNCILMEMBER GILBERT A. CEDILLO- councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org
 COUNCILMEMBER MITCHELL ENGLANDER -councilmember.
 englander@lacity.org

(Sharon Gin - Legislative Assistant - (213)-978-1074 or email Sharon.Gin@lacity.org)

[Click here for agenda packets](#)

ITEM NO. (5)
 14-0593

Motion (Wesson - Bonin - LaBonge) relative to the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst to convene a working group consisting of various City departments, City Attorney, and stakeholder groups to prepare a comprehensive report on the "sharing economy." (On August 12, 2014, Economic Development Committee approved as amended.)

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

The Honorable Jose Huizar.
Chair. Planning and Land Use Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North SpringStreet. Roort1420
Los Angeles. CA 90012
councilmember.huizar@lacity.org

Councilmember Cedillo
Member. Planning and Land Use Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North SpringStreet. Roort1420
Los Angeles. CA 90012
councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org

Councilmember Mitchell Englander
Member. Planning and Land Use Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North SpringStreet. Roort1420
Los Angeles. CA 90012
councilmember.englander@lacity.org

Dear Councilmembers:

As a 33 year long term resident of Venice and an architect who has been working in the community for the same amount of time I am very disturbed by the amount of short term rentals that are proliferating all over our neighborhoods. We have been woken up numerous occasions at 3 in the morning by weekend rental partiers who have no concept of the neighborhood they are in and therefor little respect for their neighbors. The vast majority of these short term rentals are not owner or long term renter occupied so they sit vacant until the owners can cash in on their illegal use of their property at our expense. There are very important reasons why we have zoning laws and why hotels and B&B's are not automatically allowed in residential neighborhoods. I have heard that there are some 2000 short term rentals now listed on various sites for Venice alone. Please try to imagine what it would be like if you had a home that was surrounded by short term renters whose primary purpose was to have a "good time" on their vacation instead of investing in living as a next door neighbor and caring for the neighborhood.

Please consider all these issues when discussing this.

Sincerely. Lewin Wertheimer

_LEWIN WERTHEIMER - ARCHITECT

310.392.4252

wertheimer-architect.com



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

14-0593

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
 To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:08 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **kimmy** <sunshine.kimmy@yahoo.com>
 Date: Sat. Aug 16. 2014 at 3:00 PM
 Subject: PLUM Meeting | Tuesday, August 19
 To: "councilmember.huizar@lacity.org" <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>. "councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org" <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>. "councilmember.englander@lacity.org" <councilmember.englander@lacity.org>
 Cc: "Sharon.Gin@lacity.org" <Sharon.Gin@lacity.org>

To The Honorable Jose Huizar, Councilmember Cedillo, and Councilmember Mitchell Englander:

I have just listened to the Economic Development Committee's Special Meeting that took place on August 12 and admit that is ALL the knowledge I know about the "shared economy" proposal along with what a community member has written in a very long post.

I am very against not only the "shared economy" proposal but what encompasses it, the "short-term rentals."

I live in Venice and all those streets within two blocks of the beach are riddled with transients from other cities paying obscene amounts of nightly rates for rooms with shared bathrooms that are actually rent controlled apartments.

It is my understanding that this motion would also allow the conversion of residential neighborhoods into motel/hotel strips where non-owner homes and apartments (including those protected by rent control) can be taken over by developers and rented by the day, every day of the year.

Of course Airbnb is in support of this motion. They want more unique locations and short-term expensive rentals by the beach to offer to their customers. Once again, all about green with no thought to anyone or anything but their pockets.

Yet another reason Venice is being gentrified... well, trying to be... that's a different story.

Please, renting your home when the home-owner is not occupying it so that there can be loud parties, drinking, drugs, damage, etc. is ridiculous. This is not Mammoth! what happens when a drunk person leaves the home and kills someone? Aren't the homeowners also responsible? And if the cops are called and there are underage kids drinking? Anything can happen and the owners have no idea. As the group is there to party, they have very little respect for the home.

Four years in a row, I planned a Mammoth trip and we stayed in a \$2,000,000+ house. We signed a contract that only 12 people would be there. We had 22 people in that exquisite house. Every house did and every house was full of drunk, loud people all over the age of 25 (this was years ago). The Mammoth owners purchased these homes for this reason but because they were not on site, they didn't know if there were 12 or 22 people. In a LA residential neighborhood in a \$1,000,000

house? If the owners can afford that price for a house, they do not need that extra income. It was purchased as a home in a community not as a party house that disrupts the neighbors and is an accident waiting to happen.

On the flip side, someone taking in a roommate and sleeping on the sofa in order to pay her rent as one woman shared. Completely different. That is a roommate situation, the owner is there, and it is necessary income to live.

Venice ~ if Venice is so horrible the way it is... then why do developers want to come in and put up hotel strip malls? They can add neon signs and the Ocean Front walk can be South Beach. Think going topless on the beach is next?

I'm chiming in on this as one of our supporters posted it... my (our) cause is accepting the gentrification from 4th Street on Rose (starting at Cafe Gratitude) and above and preserving all that IS Venice; it's culture, vibe, character, history, grit, vendors, musicians, street performers, men and women without homes (before they were forced into horrible situations by the newbies, LAPD, and Coastal Commission), affordable housing, affordable restaurants, friendly and the first "hip" folks from 4th Street on Rose (starting with La Fiesta Brava ~ NO Tasting Kitchen!!!!) to the beach.

Give me a platform and I'll explain it all in a way, not bits and pieces, that will make sense. How nobody sees how the Star Belly Sneetches and the Plain Belly Sneetches got into this predicament is beyond me.

Allowing more transients in and newbies to gentrify... it will no doubt push out the true Venetians who have lived here before the take-over was even a thought in a Boardroom meeting. They will lose their jobs of 20 years, their homes of 30 years, their neighbors, their memories, their restaurants, their businesses and so much simply because big corporations want to take-over and Airbnb wants to have more short-term rentals and a strip mall of hotels for people who do not live in our community?

We have enough people in our community that would love to live in a rent controlled apartment. Why not forget about the money and rent the apartments to those who needs it at the rent controlled price? They will take pride in their home and not treat it like a hostel.

We have very little affordable housing. No homeless shelters. The City of LA does. All this arguing. Let's do some good and stop thinking about our pockets because as the woman said in your meeting, "LAST TIME I CHECKED, PEOPLE ARE NOT DISPOSABLE." and vendors have always been cool and hip, the newbies didn't make that happen.

As another speaker stated, we would like "to keep our nice quiet residential neighborhood." We are a community. We say hello, do laundry together on 4th Street, have breakfast at the Rose Cafe. We can't afford Cafe Gratitude. We are a neighborhood that real, poor-middle class, hard-working, kind people live in. Why would you want to make it more difficult for us? We've been here for years. You are just steam rolling your way in. Lincoln Blvd. could use some hotels. Santa Monica? Or is it just that we are an easy target.

- . NO SHORT-TERM RENTALS!
- . ENFORCING RENT CONTROLLED APARTMENTS!
- . NO RENTING OUT HOMES TO MULTIPLE PEOPLE WITHOUT OWNER PRESENT!
- . A ROOMMATE WHEN OWNER LIVES IN HOME IS NOT PART OF "SHARING ECONOMY"!

I apologize for my ignorance and sliding off-topic; however, all of these issues are connected.

Much gratitude & many blessings,
Kimmy

cc: Sharon Gin

do what makes you
Happy,
be with who makes you
Smile,
Laugh as much as you
Breathe,
Love as long as you
Live.

Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org



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Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fwd: Regarding Agenda ITEM NO. 14-0593

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:08 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Carlos Camara** <ccamarab@gmail.com>

Date: Sat. Aug 16. 2014 at 5:23 PM

Subject: Regarding Agenda ITEM NO. 14-0593

To: councilmember.huizar@lacity.org. councilmember.englander@lacity.org. councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org

Dear Council Members.

I'm writing to you regarding Agenda ITEM NO. 14-0593. I understand that you will be considering the sharing economy and short term rentals in the Venice neighborhood.

I am a 10 year resident of Venice and have witnessed the explosion of short term rentals in the past couple of years.

I understand the short term economic benefits to owners and renters that are subletting their apartments for prices that compete with hotel rooms. However. I would like you to consider the following questions:

- Would you want to live next to a hotel?
- Would you want your neighbor to rent their house or apartment to a complete stranger every weekend?
- Can you build a neighborhood from a revolving door of tourists?
- Would you be able to live in your current home paying hotel rates every night?
- Is your responsibility with the tourists or with the Venice residents?

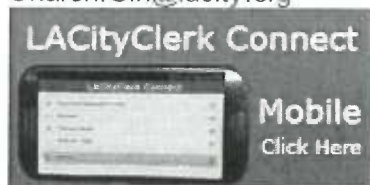
Thank you.

Sincerely.

Carlos.

--

Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org





Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Item 14-0593

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:09 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <brycefujii@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Sat. Aug 16. 2014 at 11:14 PM

Subject: Planning & Land Use Mgmt Committee re: Item 14-0593 (8-19-14)

To: gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org. councilmember.Englander@lacity.org. jose.huizar@lacity.org

Cc: Sharon.Gin@lacity.org

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing as a concerned tax-paying resident of Los Angeles County for the past 20+ years. Since 1994 I have lived in the same western San Fernando Valley Canoga Park home which I rescued from foreclosure and have renovated from the dilapidated property I purchased after relocating from the Midwest.

Although I was born in southern California nearly a half-century ago, my family left in the late 60's to pursue other employment and educational goals. All I knew about the state and of Los Angeles in particular was what I saw portrayed in Social Studies textbooks, television and the media – none of which made a return to California a particularly attractive proposition. Other than a favorable climate, the rest of the nation isn't as enamored with the So Cal lifestyle as one might think. Still, I accepted employment and made my move back to LA amidst the news cycle that captured the nation watching a white Ford Bronco driving down the 405. I wondered what craziness I was willingly inflicting upon myself.

What first brought me into the sharing economy over 2 years ago was the devastated Los Angeles economy. Having lost corporate employment, I was utilizing all possible means to hold onto my home (including depleting my entire retirement accounts). I turned to the same thing homeowners did during the Great Depression - board guests. Why not use one's own assets in a socially responsible manner rather than dump upside down mortgages or let one's home be overtaken by foreclosure? I felt a sense of duty to make good on my promise to repay my debt and maintain the vitality of the neighborhood I had grown to call home.

Hosting has made me a better ambassador for Los Angeles and the state of California as I have had the opportunity to share the special gems of southern California with travelers from around the world. I have hosted guests from Sweden, Germany, Afghanistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia as well as those relocating from Orange County and Santa Monica. I have repeatedly hosted a freelance contractor who flies in to work on TV show productions in the spring and fall in addition to traveling nurses who are called to staff the local hospital.

Best of all, I am able to direct my guests to support the smaller businesses around the area that desperately need marketing support not being provided by the monolithic corporate hotel chains. Little known gems like "Follow your Heart" (a vegetarian cafe and market), "Native Spirit Lodge" (a Native American store for gem stones and crafts) and "Mission Burrito" (launched the tortilla empire) are just a few of the local vendors I recommend that are benefactors of this sharing economy. You can ask the concierge at any Woodland Hills hotel chain and these businesses won't register as even a blip on their radar.

I am among the longest residents on my cul de sac, have been featured on HGTV for the landscape renovations I

have done which improved the neighborhood. and have a positive on-going relationship with all neighbors around my property. My house sharing has never been a blight to the community. In fact. my guests revel in the fact that I have created the most peaceful. restful abode they can imagine within the city limits.

I implore this council to not drive another industry out of a city desperate for income-generators and consistently labeled as "unfriendly" to new business. Not only does Los Angeles receive income tax revenue that can be more readily tracked above board through consolidated credit receipt statements from organizations like AirBnB. but our entire city benefits from citizen ambassadors that are promoting the various unique parts of this city and its businesses in ways that simply cannot be effectively done otherwise.

Sincerely.

Bryce Fujii
Canoga Park

Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org

The image contains two promotional banners. The top banner is titled "LACityClerk Connect" and features a smartphone displaying the service interface. To the right of the phone, the text reads "Mobile Click Here". The bottom banner is titled "MyLA 311" and features a smartphone displaying the service interface. To the right of the phone, the text reads "Click Here to Learn More".



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fwd: PLUM Agenda Item no. 14-0593

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:09 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brian Finney** <bhfinney@bhfinney.com>

Date: Sun. Aug 17. 2014 at 11:32 AM

Subject: PLUM Agenda Item no. 14-0593

To: councilmember.huizar@lacity.org. councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org. councilmember.englander@lacity.org

Cc: Sharon.Gin@lacity.org

Dear Councilmember.

This item, which promotes the commercial interests of large corporations such as Airbnb, will detrimentally affect residents in such as areas as Venice where I live. Already we suffer from 2,000 listed short-term rentals in our 3-mile square community. This has the effect of turning our residential neighborhood into a commercial facility where all your neighbors are vacationers who have no investment in its living quality.

The so-called "sharing economy" is nothing more than a convenient slogan invented by business interests to promote profitable short-term rentals. The City is turning a blind eye to the existing regulation banning rentals of less than 30 days, something that if enforced would transform the quality of our life here in Venice.

Currently, for instance a two story Craftsman style house (with no parking) at 249 Windward Avenue, Venice is being advertised for sale at \$1,950,000. The description ends: "Currently used as a vacation rental grossing over \$108,000 per year." In other words short-term rentals (even when theoretically illegal) are turning our neighboring houses into financial investments which make a lot of money. We residents are the ones to pay the price of these enticing opportunities for large profits.

I am writing to ask you to support the interests of your constituents, the residents of Los Angeles. Please amend the Economic Development Motion to examine not just the positive, but the negative effects of short-term rentals on the quality of life in residential neighborhoods as well as on the availability of long-term rental properties.

Thank you

Brian Finney
Rialto Avenue
Venice, CA 90291--
Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fwd: PLUM Agenda Item no. 14-0593

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:10 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jacky Lavin** <jklvenice@jackylavin.com>

Date: Sun. Aug 17. 2014 at 12:09 PM

Subject: PLUM Agenda Item no. 14-0593

To: councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org

Cc: Sharon.Gin@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org

Dear Councilmember,

Before making your decision please consider the interests of your constituents, the residents and voters of Los Angeles. Please amend the Economic Development Motion to include the examination of negative effects as well as the positive effects of short-term rentals on the quality of life in residential neighborhoods and the availability of long-term rental properties.

This item while promoting the business interests of corporations including Airbnb, will adversely affect our residential neighborhood in Venice where I have lived for more than 40 years. Short-term rentals bring vacationers that have no vested interest in our community, as they are just "visitors." Many of us have no idea who is living next-door to us on a daily basis. This is also creating a shortage of rentals for people who want to live and work here. It is like living in a hotel the size of a neighborhood.

The City is turning a blind eye to the existing regulation banning rentals of less than 30 days, something that if enforced would transform the quality of our life here in Venice. There is a reason this law was enacted in the first place. I am urging you to immediately ensure the enforcement of current zoning code regulations regarding rentals less than 30 days, until the impact of short-term rentals has been fully evaluated.

Once again, the profit motive trumps the interest of the greater good, the residents and voters of the community. Please do not allow this to happen and help to preserve our community.

Jacky Lavin
448 Rialto Avenue
Venice, CA 90291



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Item # 14-0593 Sharing Economy vs Affordable Housing

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:10 AM

To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <thetruthaboutU@aol.com>

Date: Sun. Aug 17. 2014 at 1:24 PM

Subject: Agenda Item # 12-0593 Sharing Economy vs Affordable Housing

To: councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, sharon.Gin@lacity.org

To: Council Member Jose Huizar. Chair. Council Member Gilbert A. Cedillo. Council Member Michell Englander. CC Sharon Gin. Legislative Assistant

RE: Land Use and Planning Committee Sharing Economy Motion # 14-0593

Please do not lump short-term rentals under the "sharing economy" brand!

Please amend the Sharing Economy Motion to reflect a neutral starting point. The Motion, as currently drafted, presupposes only the positive economic benefits of the so-called "sharing economy."

Rather, the motion should be amended to request an examination of the IMPACTS. BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE. of short-term rentals on the quality of life in residential neighborhoods, the housing stock in our City, including rent controlled units and availability of long-term rental properties.

The "conversion" of long-term rental units into ILLEGAL short-term rental units is now rampant in Venice. Please review the attached Coldwell Banker Memo, which blatantly advertises the financial advantages of illegally converting rent controlled apartments in a historic building into a short-term rental property. Pages 7, 15 and 16 are typical examples of this activity which is now happening regularly.

There is no enforcement of existing zoning laws and regulations. **Why!**

The rental market in Venice is already so tight that seniors on fixed incomes, students, artists, young families and working middle income and poor residents are being forced out. Diversity is becoming an illusion.

Allowing more and more units to be converted to short-term rentals makes a bad situation worse.

We need an IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM on the conversion of any rental units into short-term while the you and the Working Group figure out whose interests you represent - the people of Los Angeles or big money interests, i.e., online rental platforms worth billions, and real estate venture capitalists.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very crucial issue.

Bruce Meade.



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

14-0593

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:10 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Keep Neighborhoods First Team <keepneighborhoodsfirst@gmail.com>

Date: Sun. Aug 17. 2014 at 4:50 PM

Subject: "Sharing Economy" Petition

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, Sharon.Gin@lacity.org, richard.williams@lacity.org, felipe.chavez@lacity.org, david.greene@lacity.org, marie.rumsey@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.Labonge@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.parks@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councildistrict15@lacity.org, chris.robertson@lacity.org

Dear City Representatives.

The illegal practice of short-term rentals in residential areas has become a serious problem throughout our city, especially in neighborhoods attractive to visitors like Venice Beach and Silver Lake.

We urge Mayor Eric Garcetti, members of the LA City Council, City Attorney Mike Feuer, the Los Angeles Department of Housing and the Department of Building Safety to immediately ensure the enforcement of current zoning code regulations until the issues of zoning, taxation, insurance, safety, and licensing in the city have been fully addressed, and until the impact of short-term rentals on the social cohesion within neighborhoods and on the housing supply has been fully evaluated.

To find out more about this issue and see the list of petitioners who have already added their voices to this request, please visit www.keepneighborhoodsfirst.com.

Respectfully,

The Keep Neighborhoods First Team

--
Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Agenda Item 14-0593

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:11 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Keep Neighborhoods First** <jrgphd@gmail.com>
Date: Sun. Aug 17. 2014 at 6:10 PM
Subject: "Sharing Economy" City Council Agenda Item 14-0593
To: keepneighborhoodsfirst@gmail.com

Please review the link below to the August 13, 2014. New Republic article. which clearly lays out some of the the many ways in which the Silicon Valley venture capitalists abuse the so-called "sharing economy."

The KeepNeighborhoodsFirst.com Team

On Aug 17. 2014. at 4:50 PM. Mitch O'Farrell wrote:

Dear Sir or Madam.

Thank you for contacting my office. I appreciate you taking the time to become engaged in your community by getting in touch with me.

As you can imagine. I receive a tremendous volume of emails. I cannot personally respond to every individual. however I wanted to let you know that I received your message and the appropriate staff-members will be responding to you in a timely manner

I represent the constituents in the 13th District. which includes Atwater Village. East Hollywood. Echo Park. Elysian Valley. Glassell Park. Historic Filipinotown. Hollywood. Mid-Wilshire/Koreatown. Rampart Village. and Silver Lake.

If you are a constituent living in my district with a time sensitive issue. please contact my district office at (323) 957-4500. If you are not sure what district you live in. please see this helpful tool on [my website](#).

If you would like to schedule a meeting. please contact my City Hall office at (213) 473-7013.

Again. thank you for taking part in the democracy.

With kind regards.

MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember. 13th District
City of Los Angeles
Los Angeles City Council

--

Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember
Thirteenth Council District
200 N. Spring Street, Room 450
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473-7013 office
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Follow me on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube!

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Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fwd: Council file no 14-0593 - Keep Neighborhoods First!

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:12 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Barbara Peck** <icare@benefitnetwork.org>

Date: Sun. Aug 17. 2014 at 10:54 PM

Subject: RE: Council file no 13-0593 - Keep Neighborhoods First!

To: Jose Huizar <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>. Councilmember Cedillo <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>. Councilmember Englander <councilmember.english@lacity.org>

Cc: Sharon Gin <Sharon.Gin@lacity.org>

Please print and place in the appropriate file. Thank you.

Dear Councilmembers:

Los Angeles has a clear ordinance restricting rentals in residential areas from renting less than 30 days. It is being ignored by the Department of Building of Safety because of influence from elected officials.

The big Wall Street and Silicon Valley money is at the ready to fund the election campaigns of our elected officials and they are selling out Venice to curry favor with these people who have no interests except making money. By stealth. these operators have just about stolen our town right out from under its residents.

On the two short blocks of Dudley. more than a dozen properties are being turned into transient short-term rental properties. These are all really quasi-hotels - in the 'sharing economy.'

Under the guise of a 'shared economy' syndicators and companies such as Airbnb and VBRO have solicited owners of rental units and single-family homes to turn their properties into their short-term rental model of renting by the day. Owners will make much more rental income from this rent by this program and are signing up in droves.

Take a moment and look on the Internet to see the thousands of short-term rentals available in Venice. These rentals were previously available to real residents who want to live in a real neighborhood.

Soon. there won't be any place for people to rent in Venice if this is allowed to persist. This business model must be shut down before it is too late. All of these rentals listed for short-term availability must be prohibited in accordance with the ordinance now operative. It is there for a reason. I hope you will take a clear look at exactly what is going on here under the guise of the new and wonderful 'sharing economy' because these are not rooms with a bath in someone's home being shared--they are elements of a business model with has absolutely no interest in the stability of Venice's neighborhoods or the availability of housing for its residents.

Los Angeles has a clear ordinance restricting short-term rentals of less than 30 days in residential areas. It is not being enforced.

This regulation was put in place to protect the rental stock in Venice and throughout the city from the lowest rate rentals, which are under LA rent control laws to market rate homes and units. Preservation of a diverse stable housing stock and maintenance of stable neighborhoods is at stake here. This is a housing crisis in the making.

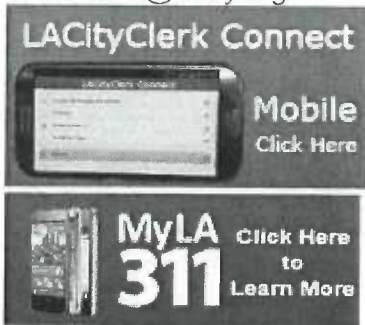
Because Venice is "trendy" these entrepreneurs are creating a short-term rental market no matter the cost to our community.

Please carefully consider this so-called 'sharing economy' business model and support Venice residents who are experiencing a loss of our rental housing stock, and the destabilization of our neighborhoods -- all in the name of supporting a false 'sharing economy' which shares nothing with the community which it invades.

Sincerely,

Barbara Peck

Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org



Aug. 18, 2014

From: Jane Taguchi
1963 Redesdale Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90039

To: The Honorable Jose Huizar,
Chair, Planning and Land Use Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 1420
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Agenda Item 14-0593 "The Sharing Economy" PLUM meeting August 19, 2014

Dear Chairman and Members of PLUM,

I am writing as an 18-year resident homeowner of Silver Lake to request that The Land Use and Planning Committee to amend the Economic Development Motion ITEM NO. 14-0593.

Specifically, I ask that PLUM amend the above-mentioned motion to direct the Work Group studying the "Sharing Economy" to examine and report on this issue objectively, rather than presupposing and examining only the benefits. The motion should start from a neutral point of view and direct the work group to look at the impacts, both negative and positive of short-term rentals on the quality of life in our neighborhoods and peaceful enjoyment of our homes.

The wording of the "Sharing Economy" Motion is too broad and should be amended to be more specific. What is being examined here? Is this motion about an individual homeowner who occasionally rents a room in his or her home to help ends meet, or is it about making it easy for special interest groups to change the Los Angeles Zoning Code to turn our residential neighborhoods into motel strips?

Real estate investors are buying properties en masse and then illegally renting them like hotels on Airbnb.com, VRBO.com, HomeAway.com, Flipkey.com and many other websites, including some operating off-shore. These transient rentals are threatening the quality of life in my residential neighborhood. I love living in Silver Lake, but now I fear that my entire neighborhood could turn into a vacation resort. My community is especially vulnerable because we overlook the reservoir. We are, however, zoned as a residential neighborhood. Hotels and motels belong in commercial areas, not in residential communities.

My block has already become a vacation destination. We have repeatedly reported numerous serious problems with non-owner occupied, year round short-term rentals but the City of Los Angeles has refused to enforce the existing zoning codes. This particular illegal short-term vacation rental continues to advertise the house on Airbnb as well as a second Airbnb house in Los Feliz. They don't live in either property.

I ask that the City immediately put a stop to this illegal activity and start enforcing the zoning code laws. It is long overdue. If evidence is needed then subpoena the information from Airbnb and prosecute this crime.

Why is the City of Los Angeles letting this illegal activity continue while our neighborhood suffers the consequences and Airbnb continues to earn billions from illegal rental income?

Sincerely,

Jane Taguchi
Owner occupied resident of Silver Lake for 18 years



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fwd: ITEM NO. 14-0593

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:13 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sheryl Hellard** <shellard@mac.com>
Date: Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 8:15 AM
Subject: ITEM NO. 14-0593
To: "sharon.gin@lacity.org" <sharon.gin@lacity.org>

August 18. 2014

Sheri Hellard
5900 Manola Way
Los Angeles. CA 90068

ITEM NO. 14-0593

Dear Councilmembers Huizar, Cedillo, & Englander:

I have lived in my home for almost eleven years. Until recently. I loved my neighborhood. It was quiet and peaceful. That all changed when the house directly in front of me started renting out on a nightly bases on AirBnB. Since that time I have had to deal with an after prom party with high schoolers from Long Beach that raged until the police arrived around 4:00 am. to parties and small groups night after night celebrating in the yard that backs up to my bedroom. I have lost much sleep because even though I live in a residential neighborhood these renters are on vacation and acting like they are at a resort hotel. When I ask these revelers to keep the noise down I have been verbally abused and threatened and told to "take it up with the owner."

AirBnb's promotions try to convince that a nice elderly couple will be renting a room in a home where the homeowner is present. What has happened with the house in front of mine is the homeowner lives in another state and rented to a man who then hired a manager to rent the house by the night. The owner rents the house for \$3.200 a month and the renter is renting it out for \$5.400 a month on a nightly basis via Airbnb.

Another major concern with these renters is they have no regard for the fire safety that is so important in my neighborhood. Since my house overlooks they backyard of the house being rented I have seen night after night of bar-b-cues and backyard fire pits being left unattended as the vacationers simply go inside to bed. Candles are burned and tiki torches lit with no concern for the red flag warnings that are in place. If the neighborhood catches fire. these people will simply pack up and leave. their lives will not be impacted but my home and neighborhood could go up in flames.

I have heard similar complaints from my neighbors. one of whom has had to hire an attorney to address the situation. We shouldn't have to hire attorneys to enjoy the benefits that we've always enjoyed in our own neighborhood simply because others who do not live in the neighborhood have seen it as a business opportunity.

To my dismay. I have now heard from a local realtor that outside investment groups are looking to buy houses in

my neighborhood for the express purpose of renting on Airbnb. This is a nightmare and an outrage. Please understand that this has nothing to do with a "shared economy" for the community rather a selfish business opportunity for those with no personal connection to the neighborhood.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheri Hellard
shellard@mac.com
310-266-4823

Sent from my iPad

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Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org





Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Fwd: PLUM, Aug 19, 2014, Item 14-0593

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:14 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gerry Hans** <gerryhans51@gmail.com>
Date: Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 8:38 AM
Subject: PLUM. Aug 19. 2014. Item 14-0593
To: sharon.gin@lacity.org. councilmember.englander@lacity.org. councilmember.huizar@lacity.org.
councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org
Cc: Tom LaBonge <tom.labonge@lacity.org>

Aug 18. 2014

Re: Item 14-0593

Dear Chair Jose Huizar. and fellow Committee Members.

In single family residential areas above Hollywood. an illegal arbitrage is having adverse impacts on the quality of life of residents. There's a new business model which certain unscrupulous operators are using: lease a home long-term and rent it out by the night.

The long-term lessee has little to lose. and the homeowner sometimes is caught in the middle. And enforcement of the existing code is difficult even when nuisance all-night parties occur repeatedly.

This practice must remain illegal and enforcement enhanced.

Gerry Hans
Los Angeles

--
Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org





Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Item 14-0593

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

Mon. Aug 18. 2014 at 9:12 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Goldfinger's Getaway** <goldfingersgetaway@gmail.com>
Date: Sun. Aug 17. 2014 at 10:06 PM
Subject: Planning & Land Mgmt. Committee Re: Item 14-0593(8-19-14)
To: Sharon.Gin@lacity.org

Ms. Gin:

Attached you will find my statement regarding AIRBNB Shared Housing. I will be attending the meeting on the 19th. I am a host of a Bed and Breakfast. You will also find attachments of a map and a picture of my wall that I refer to in my letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marsha Goldfinger
Goldfinger's Get-Away
goldfingersgetaway.com

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Sharon Gin
City of Los Angeles
Office of the City Clerk
213.978.1074
Sharon.Gin@lacity.org




3 attachments



B&B Wall 012.jpg
1520K



B&B Wall 013.jpg
1431K



city council ltr.odt
26K

