



Etta Armstrong <etta.armstrong@lacity.org>

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

[message]

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

Mon, Aug 18, 2014 at 12:52 PM

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

From: **Goldfinger's Getaway** <goldfingersgetaway@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 18, 2014 at 12:49 PM
Subject: The Subject Line: 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, Sharon.Gin@lacity.org

My parents owned this home for over 40 year. I moved in about 13 years ago to take care of my mother who had Alzheimer's Disease, she passed away 2 years ago at the age of 102. I have remained in the house not sure what to do with my life at the age of 78 no one will hire me now. Left with an equity loan of \$50,000, on the house because of full time care needed for my mother's last 5 years. At the same time the downturn in the economy occurred and I lost most of my investments and my income from the sale of my personal home. I now need to find a way to make a living since I only receive \$600.00 a month Social Security.

I heard about AIRBNB and shared income and turning my home into a Bed and Breakfast and thought that was a perfect solution. I could work in my home for myself at something I have done, hosting my family and friends all my life and at the same time I could earn the income I need to be independent and make improvements to my home. I have

just installed a brand new heating and air conditioning system in my home. I had no air conditioning system and the heater was the original one and I prayed every winter that it would come on and last the winter. I have 2 empty bedrooms and an extra bathroom and my house is perfect for a BNB. I love to cook, and meet people from all over the world.

Bed and Breakfast hosts are the best Good Will Ambassadors the city of Los Angeles and the United States could have. People from all over the world come into our homes and live there for a few days and experience what real life is like in America. And we sit at the table over a meal and we talk politics and about President Obama or they ask questions about what our life is like, they take a million pictures, they can't believe I have a yard with fruit trees and I make sure to give them a glass of fresh squeezed orange juice for breakfast, no big deal to us but a very big deal to them. One man did not want to shake my hand at first and he could not believe that I a single old woman could own the house and run it by herself without a man to rule her. After 4 days he left with a big smile and very happy to shake my hand. The Chinese want to know why Obama does not like the Chinese. I explain he likes the Chinese people but he wants fair trade 50/50 and then they understand. I showed them the shade awning in my yard that was 3 months old and falling apart. I said you see this is what we get from China. It should have lasted at least 1 year. They took pictures, they understood why I was upset.

They will go home and show their pictures and tell their stories about America. While they are here they put a pin on a world map on the country that they are from, it is on the

wall in the dining rm. They also write me a little note on the chalkboard wall before they leave (pictures attached). My guests love staying here, they leave with friendship & hugs, and smiles,

I was born in East Los Angeles, lived all my life in and around Los Angeles, I know it well. I can give my guests directions, short cuts,

suggestions, the best days to go to attractions. I made a map of the local area shops, restaurants & parks. In their room is a book of maps, brochures, menus for favorite local restaurants, etc.

People from other countries love our homes, they love our country and our way of life. They send their children here to be educated and go back to improve their country.

You need more real life, real people, Good Will Ambassadors. We do better public relations than the movie stars, and the politicians that are sent over to woo their countries.

Marsha Goldfinger,
Goldfingers Get-Away

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