



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

A Neighborhood of Homes or Hotels?

Stacy A. Herkert <sherkert@sbcglobal.net>

Tue, Aug 12, 2014 at 7:36 AM

To: Tom LaBonge <tom.labonge@lacity.org>

Cc: Debbie Kim <debbie.kim@lacity.org>, "Mike Bonin <mike.bonin@lacity.org> Tricia Keane" <tricia.keane@lacity.org>, Herb Wesson <herb.wesson@lacity.org>, Paul Krekorian <paul.krekorian@lacity.org>, Jose Huizar <jose.huizar@lacity.org>, Nury Martinez <nury.martinez@lacity.org>, "Curren D. Price" <curren.price@lacity.org>, Gilbert Cedillo <gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org>, Mike Feuer <Karla.Cortez@lacity.org>, Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>, Alan Bell <alan.bell@lacity.org>, Kim Arther <kim.arther@lacity.org>, David Lara <david.lara@lacity.org>, Tom Rothmann <tom.rothmann@lacity.org>, David Cons <david.cons@lacity.org>, Sarah Rascon <sarah.rascon@asm.ca.gov>, Eric Menjivar <eric.menjivar@asm.ca.gov>, Yeghig Keshishian <yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>, Captain Jeff Bert <jeff.bert@lapd.lacity.org>, SLO Lenny Davis <26028@lapd.lacity.org>, Pamela Marcello <pamela.marcello@mail.house.gov>, kawalkid@earthlink.net, Christine OBrien <obrienmills@icloud.com>, Alexa Williams <alexawilliams@sbcglobal.net>

Dear Mr. LaBonge,

People don't just buy homes - they buy neighborhoods. And people treating their homes like hotels changes the dynamics of our neighborhoods.

Please take into consideration what the 'shared economy' is doing to our residential neighborhoods. I know firsthand because we have lived across the street from an illegal 'vacation rental' in Hollywoodland for the last four years. Absentee owners do not 'share' their profits, yet the burden of supervising their houses falls on the neighbors. We call the police when their parties get out of hand, parking enforcement when their vehicles are parked illegally, the sanitation department when their trash is all over the street, the fire department when there's a fire and FILMLA when they shoot without pulling permits.

It's been an absolute nightmare that's finally ended with the sale of the house - but guess what? Another short term rental has opened for business four doors down. A few highlights so far - a group of people booked the house with a stolen credit card and stripped the entire place of all the electronics. Police have also been called in the middle of the night to break up fist fights on the street and because of noise complaints. And so the story goes...

There's a reason why hotels have managers, security guards and clean-up crews.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,
Stacy A. Herkert
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words - so please take a look at a few photos to give you a better idea of what our neighborhood has been dealing with:

6 attachments



photo[4].JPG
31K



trash2.jpg
32K



photo.JPG
43K



2960 Belden Drive - Trash.JPG
52K



photo copy 2.JPG
63K



photo copy.JPG
61K



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Economic Work Group

Rusty Millar <rusty@cpbio.com>

Tue, Aug 12, 2014 at 7:42 AM

To: richard.williams@lacity.org, eric.menjivar@asm.ca.gov, pamela.marcello@mail.house.gov, alan.bell@lacity.org, david.lara@lacity.org, tom.labonge@lacity.org, karla.cortez@lacity.org, curren.price@lacity.org, yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org, gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org, 26028@lapd.lacity.org, Anne-Marie Johnson <thinthis@earthlink.net>

August 12, 2014

Dear Everyone above in this email:

This letter pertains to the meeting today to establish an Economic Work Group to determine the advantages of short term rentals in residential neighborhoods. I urge the committee to make sure it is not dominated by the zealous supporters of Airbnb or other groups of this nature. The ruse that legalizing this activity to help a cash strapped city is unfounded as the City Council routinely gives away millions of dollars for developers of hotels for many years down the road and to think that allowing short term rentals to make up for the city deficit is misleading at best.

As a rental property owner myself I have scrolled through the site and have seen many places for rent that are under rent control as rental apartments, but no longer. By taking these units out of the rental stock so the landlord can make thousands of dollars a month adds to the shortage of affordable housing in Los Angeles. Also if you look at the Airbnb site it is predominately dominated by Caucasian faces renting their properties out. I have a home down the street from my home that is listed at \$425 a night. How many hotel rooms in Los Angeles go for this much? Now what part of sharing is this? This is pure profit for the homeowner and it is a business in a residential neighborhood. Neighbors have no idea who is coming into the neighborhood. This is not about sharing your house when relatives come over but an illegal business operating in an area where it is not allowed and for personal gain, I did not buy my house with the idea that the neighbors would be operating a transient house next door. Airbnb has a lot of money to fight this and I am sure they will want the deck stacked in their favor.

I strongly urge you to establish a work group that is open and will listen to residents of impacted areas of the city. Neighborhoods come first.

I cannot attend the hearing this morning as I am working.

Sincerely

Rusty Millar

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TO: The Los Angeles City Council Economic Development Committee

RE: Motion (Wesson – Bonin – LaBonge) relative to an instruction to the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer to convene a working group of various City departments and stakeholder groups and prepare a comprehensive report on the “Sharing Economy.” (Also referred to Planning and Land Use Management Committee)

FROM: Ilana Marosi, Stakeholder and Resident

I find the newly drafted Economic Development Motion now before the Los Angeles City Council to be of great concern. In reviewing this Motion, I am concerned that it is worded vaguely enough to be an opportunity to consider legalizing currently illegal activities without carefully evaluating what should be considered with regard to legalization, regulation, implementation and enforcement.

I am a long time resident of Venice. I have had many recent unsavory experiences with the “sharing economy” which negatively effect my life and those in my immediate neighborhood. I believe there are 2000 vacation rentals in Venice, which is only a 3 square mile area. In my situation, a neighbor has his apartment (which he rents from our landlord) listed on air B&B when he goes overseas. This has meant that within each few week period, it has been rented out several times. Each time, one or two persons come from the internet, sight unseen, to ILLEGALLY sub-let the place. Soon enough the rest of their posse arrives and there are anywhere between 6 to 10 tourists from overseas or interstate living in there. He does not know them, nor does the landlord, nor do I of course - YET I am forced to share walls, communal patio and garden space, and abdicate my sense of security at their expense.

These people come to Venice to party in droves. I have spent many sleepless nights due to walls-in-common, and their heavily traveled staircase outside my bedroom window. These people do not care that they adjoin other residences, as they are “here for a good time, not a long time.” These are the exact people who SHOULD BE in hotels, not in our homes! This effects my right to quiet enjoyment in my home, as well as on our entire property. It is not only the loss of sleep which effects me - often I fear for my safety. When 10 rowdy liquored up tourists are outside your bedroom window through to 4am, and you feel intimidated for your safety, this is of a grave concern. With respect, this should be of grave concern to YOU TOO - from the LAPD all the way up to City officials including City Attorney Feuer, Mayor Garcetti, and of course Mr Bonin himself.

Furthermore, all of these random dozens of people coming through my property KNOW THE SECURITY CODE to our front security gate. They will know that forever and could return, may pass it on or sell it for a quick buck. No doubt, this is something that should concern LAPD. It is no surprise the local crime rate for thefts is on the increase....perhaps the encouraging of a more transient population through the proliferation, and enabling of “Air B'nB” and the like, is contributing to this?

This is happening all over our community and the City at large. I do not feel like the “sharing economy” as it relates to an invasion of people personal peace and safety, is sharing much except DANGER, and UNWELCOME, UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS. It puts Stakeholders , their families and property at risk. The economical advantage should be irrelevant when it comes to the safety of your constituents. The “Sharing economy” does not genuinely encourage a cohesive, neighborly sentiment as your motion would like to have us believe. Personal experience dictates that it polarizes the community, instills fear, and injects a sense of alienation and transience into our once very close cohesive community.

Hence, I feel it is crucial that the Economic Development work-group be a diverse group, made up not only of proponents of the “sharing economy,” but also includes those who are interested in the protection of rent control, the quality of life in residential neighborhoods, labor union issues and other aspects of living a safe and viable existence in Los Angeles. The creation of common sense, safety and risk management regulatory structures is the appropriate way to support new technologies, innovators and entrepreneurs.

Of greatest concern is the instructions to the "working group," which instruct only that the benefits of the “sharing economy” be examined and addressed in the Comprehensive Report and ignore any analysis of the potential adverse economic, fiscal, and social impacts. It would be a disservice to Los Angelenos if the opportunity to explore, analyze and understand not only the benefits, but the serious economic issues and potential adverse impacts of the so-called “sharing economy" were not included in this analysis.

Also excluded is any mention of an examination of the financial injustices of the “sharing economy," including but not limited to, the potential erosion of the quality of life and fabric of neighborhoods. The impact of short-term rentals on rent controlled housing needs to be examined by the working-group, as does the permanent loss of affordable housing stock and long-term rentals and multi-family and single family dwellings that are rapidly being withdrawn from the housing market.

I believe the term “sharing economy,” as it is currently being practiced, is both a misnomer and a euphemism. Companies like Airbnb use the language of "sharing" to conceal ambitions that are far more self-serving. This model advocates sharing of resources. Profits, however, are privatized.

IN THIS CASE SHARING IS NOT CARING. Please take care of your constituents.

Thank you for your consideration in the above matter, in particular as it pertains to the safety, security and livability of our neighborhood and that of the community at large.

Ilana Marosi
Sunset Ave, Venice, CA



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Economic Work Group....creation of

catharine takemoto <clieselt@aol.com>

Tue, Aug 12, 2014 at 5:54 PM

To: tom.labonge@lacity.org

Cc: Richard.Williams@lacity.org

August 12, 2014

Dear Councilman Tom LaBonge,

I understand an **Economic Work Group** will be formed out of the Economic Development Committee to address the issues of “shared economy” including the AirBnB business that exists here in Los Angeles.

As a long time home owner in Los Angeles, I'm opposed to the illegal practice of short term rentals in our R-1 zone community. When David Hyun's home overlooking Silver Lake — David Hyun is the architect who designed Little Tokyo Village in downtown Los Angeles — was sold and became an AirBnB rental, my anger flared.

Any regulations/restrictions should include:

- *registration of AirBnB businesses in Los Angeles immediately,
- *an entity to address problems coming from residents,
- *direct transfer of money from AirBnB to Los Angeles proper for such business activity,
- *and a swift manner to shut down such businesses that operate out of compliance.

The formation of this Economic Work Group is long over due and should act immediately.

Set deadlines and **inform us the public!**

Respectfully,
Catharine Takemoto

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