

Exploiting Airbnb Hosts

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

Dear Members of the City Planning Commissioners and members of the LA City Council

I attended yesterday's 9/13 meeting and was moved by the many stories I heard from citizens working hard to make some extra income to save their homes, make home improvements, pay for medical care, meet living expenses, help with college tuition, etc. etc.

Short term housing generates between \$40-50 million dollars in annual revenue for the city of Los Angeles through a 14% hotel surtax charged to guests of the Airbnb community. Now you're proposing an additional daily administrative fee and charging hosts additional monies on top of that, if they wish to host beyond 120 days per year? This is preposterous and pure exploitation of citizens trying to work hard to get ahead. This is exorbitant. Furthermore, these fine citizens are paying income tax on income from Airbnb. These added charges will discourage travelers (especially Millennials and younger guests) from coming to Los Angeles. Maybe, that's your ultimate goal. In that case, it's an elitist ploy to keep the average person from getting ahead in life. Airbnb started out to help the average citizen to be able to afford to travel.

The Airbnb community does not need to be regulated by the city. The platform is already doing a good job screening hosts and guests. They also provide 24/7 availability to speak to an agent of Airbnb to solve problems or in cases of an emergency. Loud parties was identified as the primary annoyance to the community. If this is the case, Airbnb should be capable of shutting down a host or cancelling a guests membership. Adding layers to a currently smooth operation will make it an unattractive endeavor and discourage short term housing.

Lastly, the city receives more than enough money from Airbnb taxes to use it toward any administrative costs. Since a housing shortage was mentioned as another concern, why not designate the \$40-50 million generated from Airbnb toward building or buying low cost housing and/or creating more homeless programs and solutions.

I hope you will consider my concerns and recommendations. Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope you reach a fair decision that benefits the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Pamela Frerichs
Home Owner
West Los Angeles
Airbnb Super Host

From: **Ed Colman** <edcol52@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Sep 14, 2018 at 9:06 AM
Subject: Council File # CF #14-1635-S2, CF 14-1635-S3
To: sharon.dickinson@lacity.org

Remarks before the L.A. Planning Commission September 13, 2018

Good Morning, Commissioners.

This latest version of the Home Sharing Ordinance is another of the relentlessly anti-home sharing proposals the Planning Department has authored with utter disregard for the dire consequences a 240-day cap will have for thousands of homeowners.

The 'amended' ordinance makes one thing clear. Although the Planning Department was at the City Council meeting in May, when the Council voted to create a framework for year-round hosting, they chose to ignore the Council's mandate.

I lost my job 5 years ago and depend on rental of our guest room as our primary source of income. This is not a hobby for us. This is our livelihood. You want to slash my income by one third and charge me thousands more dollars to do so. Talk about insult to injury. We pay our bills 365 days a year, not 240.

We urge you to increase Extended Home-Sharing to 365 days and reduce the application fee to a reasonable amount per the City Council's instructions.

Sincerely,

Ed Colman
www.infinitefountain.com