

From: **Sibille Cooney** <[sibille.cooney@yahoo.com](mailto:sibille.cooney@yahoo.com)>

Date: Fri, Sep 29, 2017 at 4:15 PM

Subject: Re: #CF: 1635-52

To: "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <[councilmember.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.bonin@lacity.org)>, "councilmember.huizar@lacity.org" <[councilmember.huizar@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.huizar@lacity.org)>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <[councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org)>, "sharon.dickinson@lacity.org" <[sharon.dickinson@lacity.org](mailto:sharon.dickinson@lacity.org)>, "etta.armstrong@lacity.org" <[etta.armstrong@lacity.org](mailto:etta.armstrong@lacity.org)>

Dear Council Member Bonin,

The proposed restrictions on short-term rentals in Los Angeles will impose undue hardship on Venice homeowners like us, who own a duplex. My husband and I own our home since 2009 and live in the 900 sq. main house. We use the small 400 sq. granny flat as an additional space to accommodate visiting friends and family members. Both our parents are aged and need special comfort and care.

When I started offering our guesthouse on Airbnb in 2014, my husband had fallen ill the year before and was unable to work for over a year. At the same time my work situation became unstable. Airbnb-ing our granny flat these past two and a half years has been an absolute lifesaver for us. The SRT helps to pay our mortgage and health expenses while having the quality of life to invite and take care of family. As I am nearing retirement age, we will continue to need this additional income.

Hosting has been a special and somewhat unexpected experience: all my guests prove to be people with a great cooperative and optimistic attitude towards traveling and the responsibilities that come with staying at a hosting property. My guests appreciate our quiet Venice neighborhood in the Presidents' Triangle as well as my recommendations on restaurants and stores. Hosting has given me a new sense of optimism and basic trust that people can make our society work.

While a certain amount of regulation of short-term rentals is certainly advisable, restrictions such as a limited number of days per year or disallowing the SRT of a duplex unit will put us financially at great risk. The proposed restriction will make it increasingly harder for us to live in Venice. It will force middle class homeowners like us out of our neighborhood and make room for extremely affluent people, thus driving the prices of homes even further up. In no way will the restriction help create more affordable housing!

I urge you to reconsider the 180-day limit and any restrictions on R2 property owners to rent out any part of their principal property.  
Respectfully

Sibille Cooney  
Venice, CA

From: **Joe Handy** <[joehandyla@aol.com](mailto:joehandyla@aol.com)>  
Date: Fri, Sep 29, 2017 at 4:40 PM  
Subject: Support for Short Term Rentals in LA  
To: [councilmember.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.bonin@lacity.org)  
Cc: [councilmember.huizar@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.huizar@lacity.org), [councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org), [sharon.dickinson@lacity.org](mailto:sharon.dickinson@lacity.org), [etta.armstrong@lacity.org](mailto:etta.armstrong@lacity.org)

I'm a native Californian who has owned my own home in Venice since 1989. Please add my name to those who live in Venice who think we would be better off with **sensible regulations** of the short-term rental phenomenon, instead of banning or capping off such income-producing activity in the City entirely. Over a six year period, I turned in a total of over \$25,000 collected in taxes just from my one place.

I had a chance to speak with you about this at the Venice Farmers' Market a few weeks back and you gave me encouragement to think you might support a more even-handed approach to regulating this modernization of our society, rather than go the punitive route of those asking to ban or cap it.

Airbnbs are certainly our preference of where my husband and I stay when we travel. That's why they are popular in our City, especially near the beach, where there aren't enough hotels to meet the demand of money-spending visitors to Venice Beach.

All of my neighbors nearby support the right of a homeowner such as myself to use our property as we'd like, especially since we live here full-time. However, years ago, thinking it was the right thing to do, I signed up for the RSO. Ever since, they put me through the annual process to defend the fact that we shouldn't be charged for two rental properties since we live in one of them. Now, I've been told that being part of this system where I get inspected every couple of years, will prevent me from renting short term. That doesn't seem right. If that happens, I'll stop renting entirely and pull out of the RSO, reluctant but resigned, to focus more on the family and friends who will visit, but not rent, from me going forward.

Through this information gathering period, I hope you have seen that there are many winners (homeowners, surrounding businesses and the City in the form of additional tax revenue) in regulating, rather than banning, the burgeoning short-term rental industry here in LA.

I hope you'll keep that in mind when you vote on this issue.

Thanks, Joe Handy