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From: **Christopher Farah** <cjfarah@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 18, 2017 at 1:14 PM

Subject: The Airbnb Ordinance

To: CityClerk@lacity.org

Dear Councilmembers,

As you consider restrictions to place on home-sharing in LA, I wanted to let you know a little about the amazing experience I've had as a short-term renter, so you can understand the kinds of people these rules will be impacting.

I'm a resident of Silver Lake, and have been a homeowner here for four years. My wife and I first started renting out a small section of our home two years ago, when we started thinking about having children. We're both from Michigan originally, and raising kids there is pretty inexpensive.

But as we started doing research about Los Angeles, we realized having kids here wasn't just going to be a fantastic new chapter of our lives -- it was also going to be a very expensive investment. We knew we had to start earning and saving money, fast. And as two people who already have full-time jobs, we realized Airbnb was the best way for us to do it.

See, the section of our house isn't something we could ever rent long-term. It's not big enough to be practical for someone full-time, and we use it a few weeks a year to host our parents when they come to visit us from the Midwest. So short-term is the only thing that makes sense for us, and because we both work, it also gives us the flexibility to manage our schedules.

We've been very fortunate in our short-term rental experience so far. We're saving enough money to raise kids our here, in the home we love, and we're going to start trying to have them this summer. We also really love sharing Los Angeles with visitors -- because we were once visitors ourselves -- and we knew we'd enjoy the chance to open people's eyes to everything the city has to offer.

At the same time, we're not the only ones experiencing the financial benefits. Of course we pay taxes -- including the transient fee -- to the city, which generates literally thousands of dollars a year for LA. And to handle all our guests, we've also hired a cleaning lady and a handyman -- both LA residents -- to help us maintain everything, and we've been fortunate enough to be able to pay them well for their services. And don't forget all the restaurants and markets we direct our guests to.

So as you can tell, the onerous restrictions being considered wouldn't just have a negative impact on our business -- they would have a negative impact on our lives and our neighborhood. We'd have to fire the people we employ, and ultimately move someplace else more affordable to raise our family.

We're not asking for much here. Just the ability to rent out our space -- space that we'd never be able to rent long-term -- as much as we'd like, without time-restrictions. Most of all, we're asking for the ability to live very modest lives raising our family in our neighborhood.

As I mentioned, we already pay transient taxes, and we've registered our business with the city. We follow all the laws. We also vote. In addition, I work and develop content for a website, Funny Or Die, that has a very politically active voice, including working on a video for Mayor Garcetti.

My wife and I would love to be able to continue to support leaders who make smart choices for the people of our city -- and not just for the hotel lobby.

Thank you,

Christopher Farah
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