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Home Sharing Ordinance Council File #14-1635-S2

1 message

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To: Councilmember Mike Bonin <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>

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Dear City Council Members, Mayor Garrett, et. al.

I am a 4-year short-term rental host in Venice. **We share a guest room in our home of 35 years to make ends meet.**

Thank you for listening to the thousands of hosts who need to share their homes year-round and for creating a way for us to do that. However, the **two-tiered system you are proposing doesn't make sense.** It does nothing to preserve housing, it doesn't protect neighborhoods, and it doesn't prevent tenants from being criminally evicted.

Once you open the way for home-sharing all year, **why does the intermediate 120-day cap exist other than as political expediency to appease the Hotel Lobby?** In fact this entire ordinance seems to have been written by the hotel industry with the express intent of making it as expensive and punitive as possible for us to share our homes.

We do appreciate your keeping the registration fee manageable, \$89 dollars for the first 120 days. But the **\$850 dollar fee** to lift that cap, nearly ten times the initial cost, is **exorbitant and unfair.**

Once the work of registering me and vetting my application is complete, **does it really take ten times that cost to administer my listing for the remainder of the year?**

No, it doesn't.

Saddling honest, hard-working resident hosts with the cost of enforcing this ordinance is unconscionable. We've done nothing wrong. **Why not penalize the violators**—the absentee owners, greedy investors, and unscrupulous landlords who have subverted true home sharing for personal financial gain—and make them pay for enforcement?

Adding a \$5 per-night surcharge only intensifies the burden on the people who share their homes merely to survive in these trying economic times. Between the \$89 registration fee, the \$850 Extended Home Sharing fee, and upwards of \$1,600 in surcharges, the **total cost for year-round hosting is more than \$2,500 per year.**

I am retired and living on a fixed income as are many hosts in Los Angeles. We share our homes out of financial necessity. **Requiring us to pay thousands of dollars a year to do so is nothing more than civic extortion.**

In the service of fairness, you must lower the fee for year-round home sharing and eliminate the per-night surcharge.

Yours very truly,

Edward and Terry Colman, Venice