HOUSING COMMITTEE HEARING LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HOME SHARING.

COUNCIL FILE NUMBER: 14-1635-S2 COUNCIL FILE TITLE: SHORT-TERM RENTALS / PREPARATION OF ORDINANCE

To whom it may concern:

I came to Los Angeles and stayed with a home sharing host in their home. I would not have been able to travel to L.A. if I had had to stay at hotels. Having access to a kitchen, contact with actual Angelinos, being within walking distance of the family I visited, and shopping and supporting local businesses made my experience truly unique and special.

I support home sharing and am opposed to the portions of proposed ordinance that limit what people can do within their own primary residence. I am particularly concerned about the limiting of the number of days people can home share. Also of concern are the clauses that would prohibit hosts from other work related activities and the limitations on rent controlled units within primary living spaces. I also oppose the prohibitions against home sharing in residences that have been converted to single family dwellings and that such restrictions should not apply unless a tenant was removed by the current owner via an Ellis Act eviction.

I am also opposed to the criminalization of home sharing as proposed in the ordinance. Making home sharing a misdemeanor offense is an outrageous misappropriation of the court system and a violation of basic human rights. Home sharing keeps people in their homes, provides jobs and stimulates the rest of the economy. We all benefit from this enterprise and it should be supported.

The regulatory over-reach proposed by this and other cities limits job-creation innovation, and I am skeptical home sharing is detrimental to the hotel industry or contributes to higher housing prices by creating housing shortages. Hosts with more than two self standing private home units should be considered apartment
managers rather than Airbnb hosts. Further, income taxes are collected via the hosts' personal income tax, and cities and states have no legal grounds to collect additional taxes as a result of home sharing.

Signed,

Brennan McNulty
50860 Base St.
New Baltimore, MI 48047
HOUSING COMMITTEE HEARING LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HOME SHARING. CF#14-1635-S2

1 message

Lisa Cole <Lisa@jerkswithunderwoods.com>  Mon, Feb 27, 2017 at 11:30 AM
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.n.feuer@lacity.org, karla.cortez@lacity.org, Tina.Hess@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, Gerald.Gubatan@lacity.org, Sergio.Infanzon@lacity.org, Kris.Ortega@lacity.org, councilmember.crekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.englisher@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councildistrict15@lacity.org
Cc: Sharon.dickinson@lacity.org, etta.armstrong@lacity.org, nelahomesharing@gmail.com

Dear Mayor, City Atty, Housing Committee, City Council and all voting entities on this issue;

I am writing in support of home sharing and short term rentals in Los Angeles. Eight years ago we took a gamble and bought a home in Glassell Park on a street where many homes/properties have been rather neglected for years. We'd been renting an apartment in Silverlake for ten years, but when I became pregnant, but could not afford 90026, so we looked a bit more east and found an ideal home in GP. It was 2008 then and housing prices were still near the top of the market but we decided to bite the bullet anyway and become first time home owners. We bought a beautiful 1910 craftsman that needed a lot of work both inside and out. We had our newborn baby and two years later, adopted another child through LA County. Cut to five years later... and we finally began to spruce up our property. Over the past several years, we’ve made substantial improvements inside and out, and greatly improved the value of our property. We also believe we've inspired others on our street to fix up their homes.

Last year we began doing short term rental on our property as a way to recoup the costs of our substantial improvements. We would never consider long-term rental as love the flexibility of having 1 or 2 people stay with us when we choose, while keeping our extra room open for our many visiting family and friends.

In the 12 months we've been hosts, we've enjoyed the company of great guests from 11 different countries including Denmark, Sweden, Germany, UK, Oman, Saudia Arabia, Hungary, Spain, New Zealand and Italy. We've had a great time meeting new people and really love introducing them to our favorite part of LA: NELA. Our guests utilize the recommendations list I've compiled of great restaurants, shops, entertainment, etc. I'm friends with quite a few local businesses in Glassell Park, Eagle Rock, Silverlake, Glendale & Atwater and my guests patronize these businesses all the time. By staying with us, our guests have the chance to see and experience a unique part of Los Angeles they would never know otherwise and contribute great revenue to the local economy.

We are respectful responsible hosts and don't allow loud parties. We share our backyard with our guests and vet the people who come to stay with us. We use a very popular home-sharing platform AIRBNB and they provide their own vetting as well as insurance, support and protection for both parties. It is an extremely EASY SAFE platform for all parties to use. And it works really well. We do home-sharing because of the ease on our lives as we’re both busy parents, working, raising a family and volunteering within our community.

I am opposed to several portions of the proposed home-sharing ordinance that limits what people can do within their own primary residence. I am particularly concerned about the limiting of the number of days people can home share and how many listings on their property they can have active at one time. Also of concern are the clauses that would: prohibit hosts from other work
related activities; prohibit in-law or secondary dwellings to be used for home-sharing, short term rental; and the limitations on rent controlled units within primary living spaces. I also oppose the prohibitions against home sharing in residences that have been converted to single family dwellings and that such restrictions should not apply unless a tenant was removed by the current owner via an Ellis Act eviction.

Furthermore, I am opposed to the criminalization of home sharing as proposed in the ordinance. Making home sharing a misdemeanor offense is an outrageous misappropriation of the court system and a violation of basic human rights. Lastly, I highly oppose requiring hosts to undergo city inspections, registration and licensing. Airbnb provides a vetting for hosts who don't meet their standards. Guests would not stay with us if we didn't provide a safe clean environment. So, requiring hosts to conform to all these ordinance regulations will deter hosts from wanting to participate. We've dealt with city inspectors before on our property and the process was anything but easy or enjoyable. It was really awful actually as your outcome is often determined by the whim of whichever inspector shows up that day and his/her mood. Requiring licensing and registration kills the spirit of home-sharing, which has proven highly successful the world over. LA is known for being a progressive city so its counter-intuitive to pass this ordinance with all these ridiculous restrictions.

In closing, my family and I depend on home sharing to augment the high cost of living in Los Angeles and to help recoup our costs of improvements to our home and property. We could not afford to live in this home with the improvements we've made without it. And, frankly, would not have gone ahead with many of the improvements if we'd known home-sharing was potentially going to be severely limited. If this ordinance is enacted it would mean great financial hardship to me and my family.

Home sharing keeps people in their homes, provides jobs and stimulates the rest of the economy. We all benefit from this enterprise and it should be supported.

Not to mention, my family and I LOVE using home sharing when we travel both within the US and abroad! Home sharing allowed us to be able to afford to attend a family friend wedding in Sweden this past August. Airbnb is an amazing community of hosts and guests!

Thank you in advance for your willingness to reconsider the need for this ordinance. Let LA be a shining example of how progress good ideas can thrive!

Sincerely,

Lisa Cole

Glassel Park resident

--

Lisa Cole

310.490.6890

"A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." ~Margaret Mead
Greetings,

My name is Oscar Morales, my wife and I own O & M Leather in the Eagle Rock neighborhood of Los Angeles, and while we are not home sharing hosts, we do support the added foot traffic and revenue that our home sharing neighbors bring to us and our neighborhood.

More times than not, when an out of town guest shops at our store, they are staying with one of our home sharing neighbors and those neighbors suggest our store to their guests.

In our personal lives, some of our best travel experiences have included staying at a home sharing residence.

Please count this letter as our support for home sharing here in Los Angeles.

O & M Leather
Oscar Morales
Michelle Trayfoot's-Morales
5048 Eagle Rock Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90041
(323)247-4640
ommleather.com

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O & M Leather
Oscar Morales & Michelle Trayfoot-Morales
5048 Eagle Rock Blvd
Los Angeles, Ca 90041
(323)274-4640
Dear Council Member,

I am writing as the manager of EAT Café in North Hollywood.

I want to let you know of the great support we have for Airbnb and other home sharing websites that bring plenty of amazing guests to our café. Many of our returning guests have at some point participated in Airbnb whether it were because they shared their home or they were visitors using the Airbnb service. Just as recently as of today a couple who is currently house hunting in our neighborhood had recently used the Airbnb service. They came to north Hollywood on their honeymoon and now they are here house hunting. Airbnb allows many travelers the opportunity to view a city from a different perspective and it allows locals to introduce our city in a different light.

The Airbnb service brings a great deal of guests to our café and we all have a great time getting to know our customers and we appreciate all the business we receive from these services.

Our business is asking that our city also embrace these services by supporting them and welcoming visitors by allowing them to choose their accommodations.

Thank you for your support of our café and our guests.

Kind regards-

Pamela Ortiz
EAT
Arora Boheme Storefront Atwater Village

1 message

info@aroraboheme.com <info@aroraboheme.com>  Mon, Feb 27, 2017 at 4:34 PM
To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org
Cc: Sharon.dickinson@lacity.org

Dear Council-member O'Farrell,

I am the owner of Arora Boheme in Atwater Village and I am writing to you for my support for Airbnb as what they offer is a wonderful addition to the neighborhood. They not only provide something that is needed, but they refer all their guests to the shops in Atwater, and that means a lot. I firmly believe that Airbnb should continue to be an option for people seeking a unique experience. I also hope we can continue to support small business. Thank you for all you do.

Best,
Krissy Arora
www.aroraboheme.com
323.913.5870
City Council File #14-1635-S2
Council Member Jose Huizar

Dear Jose,

I hope this letter finds you well. This is Brett White, owner of Colorado Wine Co located at 2305 Colorado Blvd writing to you today. Allow me to begin by briefly stating Colorado Wine and myself have been ardent supporters of your Council position as I admire your platform of sensible progressive initiatives for our city, your authentic care and attention to your constituency, both the business community and residents, and especially your effectiveness in enacting your platform for our city. It is on behalf of this community that I write today when I ask that you do not support the regulations being proposed on AirBNB. Since we opened our doors in 2006, Colorado Wine Co's life blood is the continuous support of our neighbors in Eagle Rock, as well as broader Northeast Los Angeles. Because of the continuous support from our neighbors and community we've been able to make it through all manner of economic vicissitudes, managing to grow the business at an exponential rate each year for the past several years.

A sizable number of our regular customers are also hosts on AirBNB here in Eagle Rock and furthermore they share their homes with a community of thousands of visitors from all over the world. These visitors are 100% assets to our city and local communities as hosts basically provide them with the lay of the land, regarding locations to pick up necessaries for their stay, as well as recommendations for dining, recreation and nightlife. For a sleepy corridor like Eagle Rock in particular, I believe the experiences AirBNB visitors have and bring back with them after their stay, has a currency that is not easily estimated but nonetheless raises the profile of Eagle Rock yet without detriment or changing its homey, pleasant, warm, & accessible character.
I believe and have observed through my business, that this service drives tourist exposure and spending that would otherwise not exist, particularly in corridors of L.A. such as Eagle Rock, but it does so in a way that does not compromise the neighborhood’s identity or way of life, and so without tourist traps lining the street etc. So while there is an aspect of inestimable but substantial exposure provided to the community, there is also quantifiable, community-wide economic benefit from the service that AirBNB facilitates, along with their hosts. The hosts, who are residents, as well as local business, greatly benefit from AirBNB visitors, as Colorado Wine Co, or Swork, or the Little Beast is where the visitors spend a majority of their time and money while they are in our great city. I cannot count the number of tourists that walk through our doors on a weekly basis and tell us they were sent by their AirBNB host. We are thrilled to invite them in and make them feel like a local.

We have been made aware of the recent regulations that the city is trying to introduce, especially the 180 day cap. If this passes, it will not only hurt the families in the community sharing their homes it will also put a dent in our annual revenue, which, regardless however much growth we may boast, is still as fragile as any other small business’s. We all strive to be successful and to grow our community, so we strongly believe that these proposed regulations are too strict and will most certainly do more harm than good. We ask you to genuinely consider our position as well as every business/craft store/coffee shop/restaurant and resident in Eagle Rock and the broader 14th district in when casting your vote.

Sincerely,

Brett White
Owner

Colorado Wine Co.
2305 Colorado Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90041
(323) 478-1985
February, 2017

REGARDING: Airbnb / Home-Sharing

To whom it may concern,

As a business owner I rely on established and new customers by providing great products and service. From this, I keep my business healthy and growing via repeat customers, endorsements and reviews.

I find that my Airbnb Hosts have been a great source of new business, that I would otherwise never have had, by giving our restaurant strong recommendations that have lead to many visits from Airbnb guests, families and friends.

New business from these recommendation helps our business and neighborhood and benefits all.

Please pass the proposed new Home Sharing Ordinance without limiting the number of Airbnb visitors to our community. Responsible Airbnb home sharing is a strong benefit to our business and community.

Thank you,

[Signature]
Dear Council Member Herb Wesson,

This is Georgette from Mel’s Fish Shack on Jefferson Blvd. As you know, my father opened Mel’s Fish Market in 1982. Despite the challenges we faced over the years I am happy to say that our business is still booming. The quality of our food prompts our customers to keep telling their family, friends, and guests about our spot.

Today I am writing to encourage you to support fair home-sharing legislation and to oppose the 180-night per year limit proposed by the short term rental ordinance. We have a small but dedicated host community in South LA and they recommend their own local favorites to their guests. Mel’s is one of those places that is highly recommended on the Guidebook feature of local Airbnb listings.

Please consider the impact of any legislative decisions on small businesses in this council district when weighing-in on the issue. There just aren’t that many dining options in the area and there certainly aren’t any decent hotels. Any laws that limit visitors from staying with local residents will adversely affect hosts and small businesses in the area. Additionally, from a home-owners standpoint, I think that people should be able to rent out their room or suite on a short-term basis if they are present in the community. Naturally, people are careful about who they allow to stay in their own home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Georgette Powell
HOUSING COMMITTEE HEARING LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HOME SHARING. CF#14-1635-S2

To: councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councildistrict15@lacity.org
Cc: Sharon.dickinson@lacity.org, etta.armstrong@lacity.org

To whom it may concern:

I visit Los Angeles 3-4 times a year for vacation. Every single time I've stayed with a home sharing host in their home. I would not have been able to travel to L.A. if I had had to stay at hotels. Having access to a kitchen, contact with actual Angelinos, living in a community, shopping and supporting local businesses made my experience truly unique and special. For me, its about feeling apart of the community and in some cases contributing to the neighborhood.

I support home sharing and am opposed to the portions of proposed ordinance that limit what people can do within their own primary residence. I am particularly concerned about the limiting of the number of days people can home share and how many listings within their home they can have active at one time. Also of concern are the clauses that would prohibit hosts from other work related activities and the limitations on rent controlled units within primary living spaces. I also oppose the prohibitions against home sharing in residences that have been converted to single family dwellings and that such restrictions should not apply unless a tenant was removed by the current owner via an Ellis Act eviction.

I am also opposed to the criminalization of home sharing as proposed in the ordinance. Making home sharing a misdemeanor offense is an outrageous misappropriation of the court system and a violation of basic human rights. Home sharing keeps people in their homes, provides jobs and stimulates the rest of the economy. We all benefit from this enterprise and it should be supported.

Thank you kindly,

Jon-Erik Garcia
Step 1: **Vote Action**
- Simple Majority of the Present and Voting Board members Not including Abstentions.

Step 2: Total Board Size: 15
- Quorum: 9
- Present: 9
- Eligible Votes: 8
- Ineligible Votes: 1

Step 3: Yes Votes: 7

Step 4: Abstentions: 2

| Total YES votes needed to Pass: | 3.5 |
| Did motion pass?: | Pass |
| Abstentions act as: | Non Vote |

Total YES votes: 7

Eligibility for Funding Items: Ethics, Funding, Code of Conduct Training, 18 years old and older

Created 2/4/2016