



May 10, 2016

Honorable Mike Bonin
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Bonin:

I am writing today on behalf of the Hotel Association of Los Angeles (HALA), which represents more than 130 Los Angeles area hotels and affiliates.

HALA would like to thank you for your tireless support and leadership aimed to regulate and govern Short Term Rentals in the City of Los Angeles. As the City prepares to gather input at a public hearing on Saturday, May 21st, we urge you and your colleagues on the City Council to support the Home Sharing Ordinance that was recently released. This draft ordinance is both fair and balanced and it will accomplish a number of goals, including preserving our affordable housing stock, maintaining the quality of life in residential neighborhoods, and protecting good hotel jobs in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles hotels serve as the backbone for our City's bustling tourism industry. Our hotels provide great jobs and over \$200 million dollars in Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue to the City's General Fund each year. With this in mind, it is critical for the City of Los Angeles to ensure the draft Home Sharing Ordinance is supported so that our hotels – who have played by the rules for decades – are protected as we continue to contribute to local employment and General Fund revenue.

While we are sympathetic to the notion of a host sharing a room in their home to provide financial support for homeowners, we do not support the abuse of the Short Term Rental market. As you are well aware, many of these Short Term Rental facilities continue to exist as de facto hotels, operating multiple listings that are not subject to any of the rules and regulations that our members are required to abide by. Los Angeles hotels must meet all established health and safety regulations, zoning requirements, accessibility standards, and worker

protection laws. None of these Short Term Rental facilities that are operating as hotels have to meet these same stringent requirements.

The proposed Home Sharing Ordinance will serve to level the playing field and ensure that current loopholes are closed which allow residential buildings to be operated as commercial lodging facilities. HALA strongly supports this draft ordinance and we urge the City Council to keep the mandates for registration and prohibition on rent controlled units to be upheld. After several public hearings and months of community meetings, a fair and balanced ordinance has now been presented to the City Council. We urge you to not allow this draft ordinance to be watered down in the days to come.

On behalf of the nearly 130 members of HALA, I thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure that the City of Los Angeles finally enacts a sensible Home Sharing Ordinance that protects neighborhoods, affordable housing, General Fund revenue, and good hotel jobs.

Sincerely,



Bob Amano
Executive Director
Hotel Association of Los Angeles

CC: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles City Councilmembers
Los Angeles City Planning Commission
Department of City Planning
CAO Miguel Santana
CLA Sharon Tso