

Google Groups

Fwd: council file number 14-1635-S2

Sharon Dickinson

May 5, 2017 3:10 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

From: Jackie Parker <jackie.parker@earthlink.net>

Date: Fri, May 5, 2017 at 2:07 PM

Subject: council file number 14-1635-S2

To: councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, etta.armstrong@lacity.org, sharon.dickinson@lacity.org

Dear Councilmember Huizar,

I understand you are drafting proposed legislation to limit the number of nights AIRBNB hosts can rent their spaces. I am a resident of Los Angeles and member of a small group of AIRBNB hosts in the city, and ask that you reconsider this limitation. The arguments from some of the opposition to AIRBNB and the sharing economy, is that short-term rentals limit the amount of affordable housing. It is estimated that there are 10,000 to 15,000 AIRBNBs in Los Angeles, including single rooms. When it comes to affordable housing in this city of over 4 million people, the number of AIRBNBs does not meaningfully affect housing prices; it's just a drop in the bucket. If all the AIRBNBs in Los Angeles were to disappear today, there would be little to no effect on rental prices, as a result.

We know that some of the loudest proponents of limiting AIRBNBs have been members of the hotel industry. The fact remains, however, that many who stay at AIRBNBs have different needs than those who stay in hotels. I have known people, for example, who have traveled to L.A. from out of state, in order to be near a loved one who has been hospitalized; these families could not have afforded to stay in a hotel, for weeks at a time, while their son, mother, grandfather recovered. They also needed amenities, such as a full kitchen, which most hotels do not provide. AIRBNB also provides options for the many members of the industry who come to L.A. for short-term jobs in film and television. This is a city filled with creatives who need to travel for work, and having more flexibility with their homes, allows residents to earn income from their empty spaces, while allowing tourists and other members of the industry the opportunity to live like locals. When guests save money on accommodation, they have more to spend while in L.A., boosting our local economy. When hosts can earn income from their spaces, they have more to spend here, in their day-to-day. AIRBNB fills a much-needed gap, addressing the needs of people who are otherwise underserved.

AIRBNB is projected to bring in more than \$33 million in tax revenue to City Hall. This can do great things for our city to help with homelessness and affordable housing, especially when L.A. is facing a multi-million dollar revenue shortfall for the budget. The proposal to limit the number of possible rentals to 180 nights would force many people to stop renting out their homes or spare bedrooms and cut off a lifeline that helps so many residents stay in their homes.

Being able to share our space has allowed my family to take part in more of what this city has to offer, putting more money into our communities. We support local businesses, big and small, and have been blessed to meet people from all over the world, who may not have been able to afford a trip to Los Angeles, without AIRBNB. We have also been able to put more money into beautifying our home and garden; our neighbors are pleased, and there have been no complaints.

I ask that you please consider the benefits, financial and otherwise, to keeping AIRBNBs in this city, without adding limitations to the number of nights residents can host. It is a tremendous boon to our economy, and empowers Angelenos to continue to live and thrive in our beautiful city.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jackie Parker