

June 11, 2015

Councilmember Mike Bonin:

I am writing to ask you to help write a clear and fair legislation regarding home sharing. I'm a retired seamstress that immigrated from Ireland many years ago and now call Westchester my home.

My last husband and I live in a gorgeous home near LMU. A few years ago, I was diagnosed with COPD, which limited my mobility and made it difficult for me to visit friends and family for long periods of time. I spent a lot of time at home with an oxygen machine and as days and weeks went by I started to feel very lonely. A friend of mine suggested home sharing on Airbnb, she said that it would help with my medical finances and it would give me an opportunity to meet new people. Since I began hosting, it changed my life both financially and for my health and wellness. I am able to pay my medical bills and people from all the over the world visit me in the comfort of my own home. I would never have been able to do this or meet these great people if it was not for Airbnb.

I enjoy not only meeting all of my guests but I treat all of my guests like they are family. I am from a family of 11 children so I enjoy and love being around company. To this day, several of my guests check in with me because they are aware of my health conditions.

Airbnb has allowed me to make a name for myself and keep my home. If it was not for Airbnb I might have had to sell my home to survive because my medical bills were piling up tremendously. Fortunately, Airbnb has allowed her to keep her home.

My guests also ask me for recommendations on where to eat and visit when they are in Westchester. I recommend the Pizza shop on the corner and always tell my guests to visit "The Bluff". Many of my guests are family members of the students at LMU and they visit during graduation and the throughout the year.

Please consider my story and my situation when you draft a legislation regarding home sharing.

Thank you,

Dolores Rock

Leanna Wolfe

June 11, 2015

Dear Councilwoman Nury Martinez

After years in an uncomfortable relationship, in 2010 I bought a home on a friendly quiet street in Van Nuys. Being an adjunct professor of anthropology at LA Valley College, I knew my teaching salary alone would not fully cover such expenses as attendance at professional conferences, conducting independent research and international travel. Soon after I moved into my home, I heard about Airbnb and began welcoming guests from all over the world to share my beautiful home. In the last five years I've hosted travelers from China, Brazil, France, Austria, Italy, Germany, Holland, Korea, Russia, Mexico, Canada and all over the United States. I have never been happier.

The opportunity to share my special spots in Van Nuys (e.g. Kinnara Thai Restaurant and Lake Balboa) and exchange ideas with people from all over the world has been fantastic. Moreover, the added income has allowed me to both maintain and upgrade my home including putting on a new roof, replacing a crumbling sewer line and converting my garage into a multi-use space. My professional goals have been satisfied in that I've been able to present my research at over 20 conferences and my desire to travel has led to trips to Argentina, Brazil, Borneo, Malaysia, China, Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, and Eastern Europe.

Home sharing has enriched my life in so many ways! I encourage you to support it for residents here in the Valley.

Sincerely,

*Leanna Wolfe*

Leanna Wolfe, Ph.D.

June 11, 2015

Councilmember Mike Bonin,

I live in Westchester where I raised my two sons, one who now lives in Florida. I live by myself and after my retirement I find that I get quite lonely. One day, a friend talked to me about Airbnb I thought I would give it a try to make my life a little more eventful.

I've lived in Westchester since 1984, I love this neighborhood because it's close to the airport and I enjoy the location and it's convenience.

Once my children moved from the house I found it very lonely. My oldest son chose the name for my Airbnb and registered me to open a room for guests in my house.

I've had several people from the states and quite a few from other parts of the world come and stay with me and they enjoy the calmness and the convenience of the house and I love having them because it's lively in the house again. I grew up with a lot of noise and I enjoy the company of the people that have come by immensely.

Gardening is my passion and a lot of people are interested in going back home and trying to grow things themselves.

Not only has Airbnb has helped with my health and well being but financially it has helped with the upkeep of the garden and the house by making improvements to my home to bring up the property values of my block.

When my guests visit I leave them a basket of info from local small businesses to shop at and have meals such Truxtun's, Whacky Wok, Paco Tacos. Many of my guests come for business and I prospective stay with me while they visiting LMU, UCLA, and USC.

All I am asking you is to consider keeping Airbnb open to those that are truly sharing their home with their guests and allowing both sides to benefit and thrive from this new innovative community.

Thank you,

Rosie Perera