

June 12, 2015

RE: City Council File #14-1635-S2

Dear Honorable Councilmember Paul Krekorian:

First, hello Paul; it was nice having dinner with you at the USC Hall of Fame dinner.

Today, I am writing on behalf of my support for the concept of home sharing. Since I retired, I have become a host in the Airbnb program. It has meant a lot to me to be able to have travelers from all over the world come and stay with me. In addition the added income has allowed me to enjoy both traveling and attending many venues here in Los Angeles.

More importantly, many travelers have become friends; I have enjoyed helping them learn of the many sites and adventures here in the city. As you know, North Hollywood is now a thriving area with many restaurants and theatres. I do not believe my guests would have partaken in them as much as they have without my encouragement and help.

North Hollywood is also home to several dance academies. Guests stay with me because they can easily commute by public transportation or walking to their classes. They appreciate that I provide a safe and welcoming environment for them after a long day of dancing classes.

One guest in particular stayed with me while he started a new job in the North Hollywood area. After staying with me, he decided that he liked the area so much, he planned to move his family to this area, instead of Burbank where he thought he would like to live.

I hope you will support the efforts to allow home sharing; I know there are financial issues that need to be addressed; which can easily be accomplished. The city should be able to collect the revenue that is legally permissible and I know that hosts are not opposed to that concept.

Los Angeles has often been the trend setter; I hope the City Council will allow this concept of home sharing flourish and make Los Angeles the place that visitors of all income levels and backgrounds feel excited to visit. My personal regards to you and your family.

Mark

Mark R. Frazin

June 1, 2015

Dear Councilman Bonin,

I have resided in your district since 2005 and would like to assert my objection to the recent resolution which limits home sharing in West LA. Diminishing home sharing in our district does not address the high rents we face, which are the true enemy to affordable housing. When our apartment units are turned into unattainable condominiums, our neighborhoods become more exclusive and elitist.

Home sharing is financially vital to my ability to stay in my home. With developers snatching up affordable homes in the Brentwood area, demolishing them and then building multi-million dollar homes (with tall, exclusionary gates) in their place, our rent has increased at a much greater rate than my income. Without the income I receive from sharing my apartment on occasion, I would not be able to continue coaching actors from my home, forcing me to move and start over with my client-base.

Home sharing has been an enjoyable, practical solution to income uncertainty, and has benefitted our community by creating demand for Brentwood businesses. I have personally enjoyed the following businesses with my home share guests on multiple occasions: Caffe Luxxe, Yogurtland, Pinkberry, Pressed Juicery, Coral Tree Cafe, Brentwood Farmers Market, California Pizza Kitchen, CVS, etc. We regularly host scholars visiting UCLA and the Getty Museum, as well as veterans who have travelled for services not available at their nearby veteran's hospital. I not only share my home, but also my community with my guests. Let me tell you briefly about some of them:

Elif is an archaeological scholar from Turkey. To complete her research, she came to Los Angeles to improve her English skills while working with USC and UCLA departments. We were able to facilitate her visit in countless ways that a traditional hotel setting would not. She felt much safer staying in a home with women to give her advice, help her communicate, and bridge cultures. We provided more than lodging.



Cate is an Australian actress establishing her green card status in LA. She became our guest somewhat last minute after staying at "a dodgy but affordable" place in Hollywood. Her experience at the substandard motel left her questioning whether or not she wanted to commit to moving to the US. However, after spending time in West LA, she is now visiting with us a second time after her trip to Cannes Film Festival. Just today she frequented Drybar, Whole Foods, and Caffe Luxxe on San Vicente. We know that her decision to join our community was influenced by her home sharing experience with us.



Talal stayed with us while completing a medical rotation at UCLA. During his visit, we prepared him for a day long oral assessment by role playing doctor-patient scenarios. We went with him on "american adventures" to Six Flags and Taco Bell, Century City shopping center and movies that would be otherwise difficult to reach via public transportation. Talal is now working at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia where he tended to those injured in the recent train derailment. We are proud of the small part we played in his becoming a doctor.



Please know how disappointed and fiscally impacted we would be if we are not allowed to home share with travelers going forward. I urge you to reconsider.

Best,
Lindsey Smith-Sands
633 S Barrington Avenue
Los Angeles 90049

June 1, 2015

Dear Councilmember Mike Bonin,

Having lived in your district, Brentwood (West Los Angeles), for more than 6 years and as a PhD student at UCLA, I am writing to urge you to support home-sharing in Los Angeles.

Home-sharing has been both a blessing and a necessity in my life. As a necessity, home-sharing has enabled me to pay my bills. As you know, it is expensive to live in Los Angeles, and as a full-time student, I struggle between paying my bills on time, accruing credit card debt, or racking up even more student loans. Home-sharing has been the only way I have been able to continue my studies while reducing credit card debt and considering taking out fewer loans. Home-sharing is saving my bank account now and in the future as I save on interest payments.

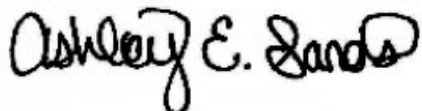
As a blessing, sharing my apartment with travelers from around the globe has enabled me to experience other cultures even though I cannot afford to travel myself. I have only had positive interactions in my home-sharing experiences of more than two years (facilitated through the AirBnB website).

I highly recommend that my guests support local businesses. I teach them how to get around town on the Big Blue Bus, and offer them insights to not miss the incredible Getty or the myriad opportunities available at UCLA. My guests have so enjoyed their time that they have paid for us to share meals at local locations such as Coral Tree Café, Café Luxxe, Fresh Brothers, and Don Antonios. Not only are my home-sharing guests enabling my financial security, they are invigorating the local economy through local shops and supporting our public services and institutions.

I understand your need to consider regulating short-term rentals. However, please remember that home-sharing is different and does not impact long-term rental availability. I urge you to remember that I am the true face of home-sharing. I personally share my apartment with guests. I am not a corporation but an individual, and home-sharing is critical to my financial well-being, provides me many wonderful experiences, and supports the local economy in your district.

Please support legislation that will enable me to continue to home-share legally and safely.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley E. Sands". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.