

Dear Councilman Bonin,

I am a 4-year Los Angeles resident, small business owner, and Airbnb host. I'm writing to ask you to consider people like me when you draft the final legislation on home sharing.

I currently run a local cleaning service that generates a majority of its profits from cleaning Airbnb homes. My 10+ workers are all LA residents who depend on these Airbnb cleanings for their livelihood and to support their family. I can say with certainty that the business generated from these Airbnb cleaning is what has kept my small business afloat and it is allowing these cleaning crews to support their families.

From my experience not only in running a small business but with Airbnb hosting at my own apartment, I understand how Airbnb helps positively impact the local community. Most of my guests are those whom would not have been able to afford long-term hotel stays and therefore would not have visited Los Angeles at all if it wasn't for short-term Airbnb rentals. All of my guests have been extremely respectful of neighbors and local residents, and they all spend their money at local businesses which I recommend. This has greatly bolstered the local community and the economic impact on these small businesses.

I ask that you please consider my story and the positive impact the Airbnb has had not only for me but for all of my workers and their families.

Best,
Neel

Councilmember Mike Bonin, Chris Robertson, Tricia Keane, Debbie Dyner-Harris, and Sharon Dickinson,

Happy day to you all, hope you're having an incredible one today!

I am an actress and a long-time resident (over 20 years) in Pacific Palisades. I am writing to express my support for home sharing and to ask you to write a clear and fair legislation.

I started home sharing in 2013 when I was experiencing a career lull a tad more than usual (still experiencing that currently). I heard about Airbnb from a friend and thought I had the perfect home for it and decided to try it out. My home is a very unique space and I wanted to share it with the world. I'm honestly not certain what I would have done (and would do) without Airbnb during this time as it has helped hugely with paying my mortgage and keep my home.

I love my guests. All of them. I've created and maintained friendships with many of them (in fact I have an open invitation to visit Iceland from my new Airbnb pal whenever I can get some extra funds together). Many of my guests recognize me from Mad About You and other shows and leave wonderful gifts for me - so utterly kind! In return, I enjoy welcome my guests with baskets and leaves gifts for them too. It's proven to be a truly beautiful thing - reminding me of the good ol' days when I grew up here in Altadena - when society seemed just a tad more welcoming, friendly, easy, lovely, neighborly and kind.

As an actress and as successful as I have been (pure luck I assure you, and for which I'm hugely grateful), I still experience career lulls and my income is not steady. The industry has changed and for my age group especially, there are just not enough jobs for the amount of people in Los Angeles - Airbnb bridges that financial gap. Everyone benefits from this. It's such a unique experience and it's a win/win for everyone.

I am very familiar with many of the small business owners in Pacific Palisades and have recommended so many restaurants and shops to my guests.

I urge you to consider keeping home sharing available for freelance artists like myself in the City of LA.

Many thanks for listening...And blessings to you and yours...This is such an amazing life!

Respectfully,

Anne Ramsay

RE: COUNCIL FILE #14-1635-S2

Dear Councilmember Mike Bonin,

My husband, an LA native, and I have been residents and home owners in West LA for the past 12 years and I'm writing as a supporter of home sharing. We now have three children – twin girls who are 5 and a son who is 16 months – and welcoming guests to come stay with us via home sharing has been a game-changer for our family and quality of life.

When my girls were about 18 months old I was laid off from my corporate job in marketing & business development. With some extra space to rent out to travelers I decided to stay home with my kids for a while and see if we could make ends meet via the income that these guests provide. As it turns out, it's a complete win-win-win:

Win: My children are much better off for spending these crucial formative early years with me.

Win: My husband and I are able to 'replace' the income (considering the very high cost of childcare for young children that we are saving) that I had been earning before being laid off and not put in financial strain. This Airbnb money pays our mortgage.

Win: Visitors from around the world are introduced to Los Angeles in a unique and affordable way. Often times we are hosting our neighbor's family members who are visiting when our neighbor's homes can't accommodate.

We have been sharing our home now for nearly 4 years. It has been an easy and natural way for our family to meet our needs. I very much enjoy meeting and greeting folks, pointing them to our favorite local eateries (usually Blockheads on Sawtelle is a big hit), and ensuring that their stay in Los Angeles is positive. I have met and made friends with neighbors whom I didn't previously know because they found me while looking for a space for their visiting family to stay. It has been a community building experience for me.

Thank you for considering my story and how home sharing supports the quality of family life a parent can sometimes only dream of in this new economy. My hope is that you draft clear, fair, progressive legislation that allows me and others like me to easily continue in an authorized way.

Kind Regards,
Julie Schneider



Dear Councilman Bonin

I am writing to ask you to consider people like me when you draft the final legislation on home sharing.

I wanted to write to you to tell you how this may seriously affect my personal situation and possibly result in my not being able to afford to stay in the Condo which I bought 10 years ago, which is my home and which I love. I am British born and work as a freelance Opera Director & Choreographer. A profession which is tremendously rewarding for myself and audiences alike. I was granted a green card in 2002 when I came to the USA to live. I was fortunate to be a guest in the house of a wonderful friend in Marina del Rey. He was tremendously generous and I have to say, experiencing such wonderful hospitality here in the US, set a fine example to me of how one should behave. Finally, I was able to find my feet and bought a Condo in Playa del Rey in 2005. It was a dream come true. Initially, I hosted friends for a few months to help me with the mortgage and property tax payments. As I am sure you are aware, working in the Arts can be precarious in terms of work contracts. In addition, the majority of my work takes me away from home, Opera being an international profession. As a result my Condo is empty for weeks at a time which can be a security risk. A couple of years later a friend introduced me to Airbnb, VRBO and home sharing. I decided to take the plunge and in so doing it has given me the security that I needed. To be quite frank, if I was not able to practise home sharing, I will most probably have to sell the Condo. I vet my renters very thoroughly. I study previous reviews and have very strict house rules in terms of noise and the amount of people allowed in the property etc etc. The people who have come to stay are delightful and I have had many renters who come to visit their families who live close by, to visit newly born grandchildren who could not afford to go to an hotel or parents coming to take their children to Loyola Marymount or to attend their graduation. Several renters have told me that staying in my Condo is a home away from home and have returned time and time again because it is affordable and comfortable. I have introduced them to local restaurants, shops and businesses thereby promoting the local economy. A couple of friends act as my Managers (who get a percentage of the rental which helps them and their small baby) I have a housekeeper who relies on the money I pay her to clean on changeover days. I have never ever had a complaint from any neighbors. I very much hope that you will be able to recommend a balanced solution to this.

With very best wishes

Nicola Bowie