

June 23, 2015

Rita Harris

Los Angeles, CA

Dear Mr. LaBonge

I am a live in Home owner, that for a number of years have been living off the refinancing proceeds of my home

I have been an Airbnb Hostess for 16 months, an American ambassador to 237 guests from 17 countries.

My life took a dramatic turn for the better when I became an Airbnb hostess. At 75 years I am learning just how small the world is.

In the past months I have hosted a Neuro Scientist from Italy, a Plastic surgeon from Singapore a director from England, I listen more attentively to the world news, I look forward to every day, I have a happy heart, I am no longer lonely, I have money in my pocket and a skip in my step. Who would have thought at 75 I would have the life I'm enjoying now. The world is a better place because of the home sharing opportunities. I am an ambassador for America, and for the City of Angels. My car knows how to drive to the CITADEL

I pay income taxes, donate money every month to various charitable organizations, and boost the local economy, generate revenue for small businesses and help a LOT of other people in our community along the way. By opening up my home I am adding to the booming tourist economy.

I urge you to consider creating fair and clear regulations that will allow people like me to continue our home sharing I am grateful for the home sharing opportunity, I can now say I can afford myself.

Yours Sincerely

Rita Harris

Dear Councilman Bonin,

I own a guest property in Venice that I have rented out for nine years. When my tenant moved out in August we were hesitant to find a new tenant right away because at some point we may need to move an elderly relative into that unit. However, since we are not quite ready for that move, we needed to find a way to make some money on the property temporarily in order to cover our mortgage. When we heard about AirB&B and short term rentals, we knew that could be the temporary solution for us.

We have been renting the house out since October through AirB&B and I can not tell you what a complete joy it has been. Our Air B&B guests have come from all around the world, England, Australia, Canada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Moscow, Germany, Belgium and France in these short few months. As well as folks from all over this country. Mostly I've rented to families of four who enjoy having a kitchen and laundry room. I've rented to parents of local college students, friends coming in for weddings or reunions, high schoolers and parents touring local colleges, retirees seeking adventure, business people attending local conventions and actors here for pilot season.

I have met most of the guests all of whom have heard about Venice and have been excited to experience this wonderment culture that Venice has become. I encourage guests to leave the car behind and walk, bike or use local transportation as we are one of the few spots in Los Angeles that one does not need a car. I point them in the direction of local restaurants and shops. And once they go home, they spread the word that Venice is a true destination spot.

The most exciting part of being an AirB&B host is the kindness I have felt from the guests. AirB&B in particular is a first class act and attracts guests and hosts who respect each other and each other's property.

Having a short term rental allows me to show off the community I am proud of as well as generate income to local merchants and support public transportation as well. As far as I can see, it is a positive thing for tourism and local business. It would be a shame to have it banned in Los Angeles. Thank you for considering to support home sharing in Los Angeles

Sincerely,

Kendell Shaffer

To Whom it May Concern:

Home Sharing has improved my life drastically. Prior to becoming a host for Airbnb I could barely afford rent. Every year my rent would go up but my income would stay the same. After I lost my hearing to a virus, I was forced to retire from my teaching job because I couldn't understand my students. Dependent on disability, naturally, my income plummeted. If I wanted to maintain a middle class income, I had to come up with some idea to afford my apartment, pay for food, and help my daughter go through law school.

Home Sharing was the answer. My income from renting out the room my daughter once occupied made a huge difference financially in my life. I also had the opportunity to act as an ambassador to visitors from as far away as Germany, Russia, and South Africa. I've learned that if people from other nations and across our own country want to get to know Angelenos, the best way to do that is not stay in a hotel, but to rent a room in one of our homes.

Since I started Home Sharing, I've made many friends from around the US and the globe. And I'd like that experience to continue. That is why I urge you to propose smart, forward-thinking legislation to regulate the short-term rental industry, calling for authorization of home sharing while strictly prohibiting rogue hotels and halting a frightening loss of rental housing.

Best wishes,
Michael Thal
Airbnb Host

The Abduction of Joshua Bloom

<http://amzn.to/1mTqLGP>

The Legend of Koolura:

<http://tinyurl.com/a63jamp>

Koolura and the Mystery at Camp Saddleback:

<http://amzn.to/1ifKn39>

Goodbye Tchaikovsky:

<http://tinyurl.com/bh95ht7>

Author Website:

<http://www.michaelthal.com/>

Book Trailers:

Koolura: <http://tinyurl.com/a69ysqp>

Saddleback:

<http://bit.ly/1jKliYg>

Tchaikovsky: <http://tinyurl.com/a8uc6tx>

Dear Ms. Dickinson,

After my grandfather died two months ago, my family began renting out his home in Venice through Airbnb in order to keep up the mortgage payments. This was the only way we could cover the property's mortgage, property taxes, and bills, and keep the house from going into foreclosure. Airbnb became a temporary solution for us. I live on the property and currently manage the Airbnb.

We've been renting out the house for only a couple of months, and it's been wonderful. My guests come from all around the world; I've rented to families who enjoy having a kitchen and laundry room, I've rented to parents of local college students in town for graduation, and to people in town for business. Airbnb is a thriving community. All my guests have been very respectful of my grandfather's property, his former home, and they've basically made it possible for us to keep this house in the family.

Venice has always welcomed travelers and its economy continues to grow. I encourage guests to leave the car behind and walk, bike or use local transportation as we are one of the few spots in Los Angeles where one does not need a car. I point them in the direction of local restaurants and shops. And once they go home, they spread the word that Venice is a true destination.

The most exciting part of being an Airbnb host is the kindness I have felt from the guests. Having a short term rental allows me to show off the community I am proud of as well as generate income to local merchants and support public transportation. As far as I can see, it is a positive thing for tourism and local business. It would be a shame to have it banned in Los Angeles. Thank you for considering supporting home sharing in Los Angeles

Sincerely,

Samantha Stier

To: Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles, California

Subject: HOME SHARING

Dear Tom LaBonge, David Ryu and Council Members:

As a 27yr resident of Hollywood, I am writing to add my story to support Home Sharing in Los Angeles.

My name is Greg Beckett and my Home Sharing began in October 2013. Having had a partner of 9 years move and still recovering for the recession, I had a huge challenge ahead of me to be able to pay bills and keep my home.

A good friend informed me about Home Sharing and after some deliberation I jumped in the mix. What a great experience and life saver Home Sharing has been for me. Not only was I able to stay independent and keep my home but also meet people from all over the world - China, Brazil, France, Mexico, Canada, Germany, Switzerland and of course the US to name a few countries. Many of these guests had mentioned how they appreciate Home Sharing since otherwise they would not have been able to afford to make a trip to Los Angeles. Some of the guests are now friends and we now continue to stay in touch and they recommend their friends and family to come to Los Angeles to visit and stay with me.

Most of my guests love that they can eat at the restaurant Grub at the end of the block or hit the coffee shops in the neighborhood. I always recommend my favorite dry cleaners and shops where they are given added special service when mentioning they are staying at my home. These hidden gems benefit from Home Sharing but would otherwise be overlooked if they didn't have a host to show the guests around town. One of the must do things for my guests is a horseback ride in Griffith Park – they love it and are always surprised when I suggest this since they never knew it was available in such a city.

The money I receive maintains my home, pays DWP, and goes to the local painter for touch up work to keep the place nice. Money is also spent the gardener and the local Dolphin Pool Supply to assist in maintaining my home. There is also money spent at Cut n Go on Vine street and the Ranch Market. So much of the Home Sharing money is spent in our local economy to allow good, friendly people to continue to live, work and promotes this fine city to the world.

Please consider all the good Home Sharing brings to Los Angeles and it's hard working small business owners who appreciate every dollar that returns back into the local economy over and over again.

Sincerely,
Greg Beckett