

LA City Council Members Chambers

200 N. Spring Street, RM 340

Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Ordinance #CPC-2016-1243-CA.

14-1635-52

Dear Council member Bonin,

09/21/16

My name is Chantal and I am a single mother of two, 12 and 14. I am a short term rental host in Mar Vista. I am addressing this letter specifically to you as I have been made aware that you may be the policy maker of whom I need to make my plea.

I have grown up in Los Angeles. My mom, also a single mother of two, moved us when I was 7, to a tiny one bedroom apartment in Beverly Hills. Her biggest concern was getting us into a good school system. She worked three jobs and we were latch key kids in the 70's. The beauty of that time was that we lived in a neighborhood with all the colorful character of any neighborhood. People supported each other, were friendly and looked out for the kids on the block. After school, all the kids around would be outside playing hop scotch, tag, hide and seek ding dong ditch or chalking up the sidewalk.. We'd go home at dusk and pop in a Hungry Man dinner while we waited for my mom to come home, knowing all our neighbors, in case we would run into any trouble.

Every neighborhood I lived in after that from Santa Monica in the early 80's, Venice in the late 80's, 90's to Echo Park in the late 90's was a neighborhood. We would invite each other to parties, have coffee together, and do art in each others ceramic studios or yards. It was great!

I understand that this may sounds like the ideology given to you by any group who wants to see STR banned and Keep Neighborhoods First, but I would submit that the neighborhood I just described is a hard one to find. We live in different times, be it technology and social media, the excruciating cost of living in LA that may be pandering to a more pretentious crowd, the rising home prices that has people working longer hours, or just the basic fears fed by our media connection that has many neighbors hiding behind closed doors, lest their neighbors be the ones to be afraid of.

I don't know what it is, maybe my bad luck, but for the past 10 years I have seen the degradation of community relations and neighborly tolerance that has nothing to do with Short term rentals. I have owned my home in Mar Vista for 14 years and I barely know my neighbors, probably because we all have busy lives that take us from our cars to our homes. Honestly, the ones I do know only by virtue of the grief I get from the unfriendly texts that my dryer buzzer is going off or a 2 minute bark from my puppy. I have had my neighbors call the city every time I turned on a power tool, I get nasty text from my neighbor because I have cafe lights on my deck that are on a timer to shut off at 9:45, but he wants them off at 9 because he has a sensitivity and refuses to get curtains in his modern dwelling. I've taken 10 bulbs out to rectify his concern yet he is essentially the same neighbor who complains about Airbnb, with no cause, I can assure you. I could go on but my point is not to complain but to paint a balanced picture today.

So, I now find my community in Airbnb and the few neighbors who understand that they live in a city where you cannot control all aspects of your surroundings, the importance of addressing needs with kindness, not aggression, and that other people needs matter too. They understand that their Neighbor may financially need to rent out a room, their home, or two rooms to keep up with the cost of survival.

This is an awesome opportunity to grow and open ones heart, to know and welcome other cultures and people and to generate much needed monies into family's security as well as the community and city as a whole.

I was divorced in France in 2012 and receive no child support. Airbnb has allowed me to be the mother my mother never had the chance to be. I get to take my kids to school, pick em up, take them to after school activities, buy them new school clothes, make them dinner and take the time to let them know I love them, without the stress that has you parenting and reacting out of exhaustion. Airbnb has allowed me to show them to be careful but not afraid, to be kind, tolerant, open and compassionate. I get to help them make the decisions that will make them a positive force for the future of our city, our country and the world based on the principles above. They get to see that all the things you hear on the news about certain people countries or religion is not all there is. We had guest from Pakistan where we had an hour conversation on how beautiful and safe they feel despite the limited information we get on the news. It shows you that of course there are two sides to every story and it's complicated. I understand that this is as it is, in respect to the decisions you all need to make regarding STR's. The expression, "Please don't throw the baby out with the bathwater", could not be more fitting.

I would like to propose the following:

\*Allow STR's with owner living on the property for 365 days a year. This is for the people who are renting out rooms, back houses, duplexes etc.

\*Two rental maximum (in case there are two rooms, back house and room etc).

\*Whole home rentals without the owner on the premises are capped at 3 months to allow for family vacations, but will discourage anyone taking a perfectly good long term rental off the market.

\*Most importantly, I propose that any corporation or management company should be barred from doing STR's. These are the people opening LLC's, buying houses or buildings and turning them into STR's

Thank you so much for taking the time to let me share my view.

Most Sincerely,

Chantal

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