

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 05/31/2019 10:36 AM

Council File No: 14-1635-S7

Comments for Public Posting: To the City Council– As a long time Venice resident who shares his home as a Short Term Rental, I welcomed the recently passed ordinance that legalized home sharing in Los Angeles. I also applauded the Council's decision to allow home sharing 365 days a year for qualified hosts. At the time, the Council promised that the fees would be reasonable, and the registration process simple and straightforward. While the initial fee of \$89 to obtain a Home Sharing permit for 120 days is certainly reasonable, the cost of \$850 for an Extended Home Sharing permit is far from that. Additionally, the proposed per-night surcharge of \$5 adds another whopping \$1,500 to those fees if one hosts for 300 days a year; not an uncommon thing for people such as me who depend on the income from home sharing to make ends meet. That now brings the total for 300 days to \$2,439, a far cry from the "reasonable" \$89. I strongly urge the Council to reconsider these exorbitant fees. Why the Council elected to impose a rash of additional fees and taxes to create a new bureaucracy staffed by nearly 30 people to administer this law instead of using some of the millions of dollars of Transient Occupancy Taxes we now pay and city departments already existent is beyond understanding. What strikes me as particularly ironic is that while the short-term rental activity that has sparked all the outrage and bad publicity – absentee owners, commercial investors, speculators, and unscrupulous operators who have subverted the intent of home sharing for commercial gain – this regulation targets law-abiding people who open their homes to the world as ambassadors for our city, bring tremendous economic benefit to their communities and the city at large, and often depend on the income from their home sharing activities to remain in their homes of many years. Additionally, there are numerous unanswered questions about the registration process, documentation, time table, and types of homes allowed, to name a few. This ordinance is slated to go into effect in a month and we have no idea of what to do, how to do it, what it will cost, how long it will take to get our permit, what we will be allowed to do, and what to do if we have bookings in place for guests after July 1. We need to know how to proceed so we may be able to comply with this convoluted and restrictive ordinance. Sincerely, Ed Colman, Venice