

June 23, 2015

Dear Councilman Krekorian,

This letter is in regards to Council File #14-1635. I understand the city council is considering regulating home sharing and I would like you to consider my situation, as a single woman, as you move forward with your discussions on this matter.

I have been a homeowner/taxpayer of Valley Glen for the past 10 years and have lived and attended high school and college in the San Fernando Valley for the past 30 years.

As a psychotherapist in private practice and a single woman managing my home and two elderly parents, I need to rely on the extra income of home sharing to supplement my unreliable income from my practice to insure the payment of the mortgage, the insurance, and to provide for my parents' needs.

However, sharing my home and inviting others into our city has provided me with much more than supplemental income. I have met like minded people from all over the world and our nation that I would have never met. Consider Clara, a young Spaniard psychiatrist who came from Barcelona to do an internship at the San Fernando Community Mental Health Clinic. I was able to help guide her around the city and help her acclimate and enjoy her stay and enrich her learning experience. She would not have had the same experience had she stayed in a hotel or a sense of safety had she stayed in a randomly chosen place. Clara and I are good friends now and continue to stay in touch as she has returned to Spain. Home sharing provides an opportunity for creating communities and friendships across the globe.

Sonya, a guest from New York, visited LA to attend her friends' wedding who live 5 minutes walking distance from my home. The convenience of the location and the affordability of home sharing allowed her to participate in all the events of the wedding as she could not afford to rent a car.

I started home sharing last year. The supplemental income has helped to pay for my house expenses, but also for some home improvement projects. I hope

to be able to save for painting my house as like many middle class americans I have not been able to secure any home loans.

Home sharing, additionally, has brought income into the community as my guests shop in the local grocery markets, Trader Joe's and Ralphs, to name a few and eat in the local restaurants or use the stores at the Sherman Oaks Plaza for their other needs. Often, I've accompanied my guests for a meal to the local restaurants such as Aroma Cafe in studio city. This is a great way to welcome visitors and help create an unforgettable experience so that they would want to return, spread the word and increase revenues from the tourism industry in LA.

I understand the City Council and The Mayor wish to regulate and tax home sharing revenues in order to increase the city's revenues and protect the community from any possible abuses. I am in favor of all the above. If regulating and taxing home sharing enhances our city's budget and gives the government the ability to provide better services, then I will support it. I am in favor of fair and reasonable regulations and taxation. Please remember that most people involved in home sharing, whether the guests or the hosts, are middle class citizens already getting squeezed economically. We depend on this income to survive and maintain our homes and a high tax level would erode this income and our possibilities to provide for our family and to reinvest in our homes.

I'd like to invite you to be a supporter of home sharing and your constituents who are providing a much needed service in this area. Further, I thank you for considering my letter in your discussions on this issues at the City Council and please contact me for any questions or support you may need.

Sincerely,  
Arghavan Sadeghi, LMFT

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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>