

Google Groups

I support unlimited Home Sharing

Constantine Vlahos <vlahos@sbcglobal.net>

Oct 22, 2018 12:36 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear PLUM committee,

I am a "home sharer". I would appreciate it if you read this entire letter re. home sharing. It took me several hours to write it.

First, I wanted to note that council member David Ryu's sponsored party house ordinance solves a great portion of the home sharing problem. A truly great piece of legislation. Bravo.

Second, I want to say that I do NOT SUPPORT people who turn apartment buildings into de fact hotels. By all means, create fair legislation to address this.

That leaves home sharing for individuals.

My take:

Home sharing is critical for people like me who are trying against long odds to be able to find a way to make it. To lay aside one myth, nobody wants to share their home with strangers. Home sharers are not greedy. We are sharing our homes to survive. To support this above assertion, you might be interested to know that in 2017 I called every single Los Feliz host listed on HomeAway/VRBO in an effort to find a housekeeper reference. I did this on 2 occasions. Guest what I learned? 80 - 90% of Los Feliz short term renters were cleaning their own rentals! These were mostly whole homes. I was really shocked. This are people living in million dollar+ homes. The so-called rich. They are struggling to survive.

My Points about the proposed ordinance:

Home Businesses:

- The proposed Home Sharing ordinance **would ban conducting any other home business**. Ironic since the ordinance wants owners to be on-site to mitigate potential problems. Does the city council believe people can make a living from home sharing alone? Seems so if they want us to be on site but doesn't want to let us work from home. It's a nonsensical plank. Please consider that we are renting a room for sleeping. That is a residential use in a residential neighborhood. This is not like my accountant who works from home and has clients coming and going all day long.

Is the city council going to regulate all home businesses in Los Angeles? Make them all register and create another big bloated new bureaucracy? Why pick on home sharers? Our "business" is residential in nature. We are providing a place to sleep that ordinary people can afford.

Selective Enforcement:

My ex-housekeeper has about 10 people on average staying in her house paying rent, from Guatemala. Many of these guests are short term. Is the city now going to regulate all the poor, undocumented people who are home sharing in Los Angeles? I understand there are over a million poor, undocumented people living in Los Angeles. Instead, it looks like you are selectively attacking a few thousand people in the more affluent neighborhoods. Why us? Why is this even an issue? We have homeless people living in our streets in Los Feliz. We have a terrible crime wave. The streets are full of pot holes. No-one sends their kids to local schools because they are so bad. etc. etc.

Permission from Neighbors:

This idea is straight out of the communist era Soviet Union. Require permission from neighbors to home share? Makes me think of the East German Stasi program where they had friends, families and neighbors spying on each other.

You are proposing that my neighbors will have veto power over my ability to make a living. I have lived in my house for 18 years. I am not on good terms with one of my neighbors. I think most people could say they are not on good terms with a neighbor. You want to give that neighbor veto power to destroy my life?

What if I was black and my neighbor hated black people?

Other points:

1) **What progressive would be against home sharing?** Why are our politicians siding with the hotel industry who had an all time record occupancy rate of 81.7% in Los Angeles in 2017? Home sharing is power to the people. The proposed ordinance, written by the hotel industry, is siding with global corporations over citizens.

2) What message does banning home sharing send to **poorer travelers who can't afford to stay in a Los Angeles hotel?** The average cost of an ArBnb is \$117/night. The hotels charge at least double that on average.

3) Wouldn't more home based business help the **traffic** problem in Los Angeles? I think so. Tell that to the NIMBY's.

4) Look at what a positive, transformational effect **Uber** has made. People can use their major asset (car) to make extra income and at the same time make a taxi ride affordable for average working people. That's win/win. Home sharing is win/win for the same reasons.

5) **People's wealth is tied up in their houses** but The State doesn't want to let us use our major asset to make ends meet? It is especially hard to afford a home in Los Angeles.

6) **We already had a very representative vote on Airbnb in Silverlake in 2015** in which the district voted in favor of home sharing in a referendum type election. Tom LaBonge lieutenant Ann-Marie Johnson lead the Silver Lake Neighborhood council in proposing a ban on AirBnb. She was working for Tom LaBonge at the time. The Silver Lake Neighborhood council incumbents got thoroughly routed losing 15 of 18 seats in a record turnout. After LaBonge slithered away destroying all evidence of his criminality for the incoming Ryu, he went to work for the Hotel Industry. Most people who are aware for this sordid affair believe Ann-Marie Johnson was working as agent for the hotel industry in this out of left field witch hunt.

I could go on for pages and pages with reasons that home sharing is good for individuals, the economy and society at large but I don't have time.

I am under tremendous financial pressure. I'm exhausted. I don't have time to write letters like this. Please do the right thing and back off this hotel industry witch hunt. It's anti-home sharing argument has no merit. Let us home share as many days as we need to and please strike the rest of the nonsense.

Sincerely,
Constantine Vlahos
Los Feliz

Google Groups

I support RSO Unit Protections and Affordable Housing

Donna Grillo <vinidon@aol.com>

Oct 22, 2018 7:47 AM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

We need help desperately in our neighborhood. The owners of a building right across the street from me have turned one of their rent controlled apartments in to a hotel. They rent to 6 to 10 people! Noise, trash, strangers - some very scary looking gang type people rent the place. Parties keep us all up. They take extra parking spaces because they'll come with two and three cars.

Please do something about this ruination of our neighborhood. This is a rent controlled apartment that should be rented to a family not a bunch of tourists out to party. Where are my protections? What can I do to stop this?

I pay outrageous amounts of rent for a one bedroom apartment and yet I don't feel safe in my own hood. Air bnb is ruining our neighborhood of Los Feliz.

Sincerely,
Donna Grillo
1959 N Kenmore Av.
LA 90027

donnagrillo.com
Donna Grillo Casting/Facebook
IMDB Credit Link
Donna's Blog

"Instead of making up excuses for why something is impossible, it's far better to come up with reasons why it could be possible. One reason why is more powerful than all the reasons why not."

- Jackson Kiddard

Google Groups

I support RSO Unit Protections and Affordable Housing

Pat Sherry <prsherry5@yahoo.com>

Oct 22, 2018 3:53 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

I live in nj. Cannot go to meeting. We are having same problem here in our small town that is on a lake. We are having a meeting this thurs. To talk against these airbn bs. Any help I deeply appreciate

Sent from my iPhone