

Letter: Short-Term Rentals Promote Quality of Life

Honorable Councilmembers:

I live in a single-family residence and I rent out my spare guest house through an online vacation rental service. Renting this space has given me a critically needed source of supplementary income, and I'm writing to respectfully ask that you refrain from implementing any policy that would take that away.

The income I've received from renting out my guest house has been nothing short of a lifeline for me and my family. I used to live with my mother in this home as I took care of her through her old age. When she passed two years ago, I had no idea how I would be able to afford to continue living here. Renting out the extra space in my home has given me the breathing room I needed to regain my financial footing, and I've had nothing but good experiences with my guests and neighbors.

I've seen some of the negative media depictions of short-term renters in LA, and they are simply not what I have experienced. Many of my renters, for instance, are soon-to-be Angelenos needing a temporary place to stay while they wait to move into their new homes. When one of my guests arrives, I set very clear rules and guidelines to ensure the guest understands the importance of being courteous to my neighbors. None of my guests has ever treated my property or my neighbors with anything but respect.

I know there are many others out there like me – people who depend on short-term rental services to make the extra money they need when they fall on hard times or when their day jobs just aren't enough. Before you make a decision on how to regulate these short-term rental services in LA, I ask that you consider the enormous impact they've had on the quality of life for me, and countless other Angelenos – not just the salacious party-house footage you've seen on TV.

Thank you,

Georgia D

Letter: Before Acting, Consider Unintended Consequences

Honorable Councilmembers:

I own a duplex in Los Angeles. I live in one half, and rent out the other. It would seem to me the height of government overreach to tell me I can rent out my own property for 31 days, but not 29 days?

Why not? In fact, when I went away on vacation last year, I rented my OWN unit for the 10 days I was gone. The money I made was spent painting my building. This is economic stimulus. AirBnB frees up wasted space and puts it to use. WIN-WIN.

My guests LOVE staying in my place. I have nothing but 5-star reviews. Do the neighbors mind? I don't know. I haven't heard a thing. In fact, I live next door, and I rarely if ever even meet my guests – they are out seeing the city!

Let's not be like France with Uber, or Santa Monica with AirBnB, who let hotel worker's unions, of all people, write the law.

As someone dependent upon renting out my own second home for income, I strongly urge you to consider all of the consequences of the proposal before us, before making a careless decision that would significantly harm so many Angelenos in my position.

Sincerely,

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213-842-7625*

Jean-Marie Bonthous, PhD

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August 18 2015

Mr. Jose Huizar

Chair, Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM)

councilmember.huizar@lacity.org

Honorable Council members:

I read recently about Councilmember Bonin's proposal to limit short-term rentals in Los Angeles. I support smart, sensible regulation of this business in our city. But I think the current proposal overreaches, and bans elements of this industry that clearly should be kept intact.

I own a second home in mid-City Los Angeles, and I depend on the income I generate from renting it to guests when I'm not using it. The current proposal would make it illegal for me to rent out my own second home, and that doesn't make sense.

I understand the intent of this proposal – to stop property owners from turning apartment buildings into de facto hotels – but limiting short-term rentals strictly to a property owner's primary residence simply goes too far. If somebody owns a single-family home, they should be able to rent that home as they please.

Aside from the issue of property owners' rights, the fact is that there's a huge tourism demand in our city for comfortable, homey, authentic accommodations. The millions of tourists visiting Los Angeles every year shouldn't be limited to choosing between a large hotel and someone's primary residence.

Again, I have no issue with sensible regulation of the short-term rental business. But we need to be smart about where we draw the line, so that we're not creating unintended consequences that needlessly eliminate parts of this valuable, job-creating industry that clearly have the right to exist.

As someone dependent upon renting out my own second home for income, I strongly urge you to consider all of the consequences of the proposal before us, before making a careless decision that would significantly harm so many Angelenos in my position.

Sincerely,

Jean Marie Bonthous
1728 South Orange Drive
Los Angeles CA 90019

Cc: Mr. Richard Williams

Letter: Short-Term Rentals Promote Quality of Life

Honorable Councilmembers:

I live in a single-family residence and I rent out my spare room through an online vacation rental service. Renting this space has given me a critically needed source of supplementary income, and I'm writing to respectfully ask that you refrain from implementing any policy that would take that away.

I've seen some of the negative media depictions of short-term renters in LA, and they are simply not what I have experienced. Many of my renters, for instance, are soon-to-be Angelenos needing a temporary place to stay while they wait to move into their new homes. When one of my guests arrives, I set very clear rules and guidelines to ensure the guest understands the importance of being courteous to my neighbors. None of my guests has ever treated my property or my neighbors with anything but respect.

I know there are many others out there like me – people who depend on short-term rental services to make the extra money they need when they fall on hard times or when their day jobs just aren't enough. Before you make a decision on how to regulate these short-term rental services in LA, I ask that you consider the enormous impact they've had on the quality of life for me, and countless other Angelenos – not just the salacious party-house footage you've seen on TV.

Thank you,

Noah Landis

Letter: Short-Term Rentals Promote Quality of Life

Honorable Councilmembers:

I live in a single-family residence and I rent out my house through an online vacation rental service. Renting this space has given me a critically needed source of supplementary income, and I'm writing to respectfully ask that you refrain from implementing any policy that would take that away.

The income I've received from renting out my house has been nothing short of a lifeline for me and my family. Renting out the extra space in my home has given me the breathing room I needed to regain my financial footing, and I've had nothing but good experiences with my guests and the majority of my neighbors.

I've seen some of the negative media depictions of short-term renters in LA, and they are simply not what I have experienced. Many of my renters, for instance, are soon-to-be Angelenos needing a temporary place to stay while they wait to move into their new homes. When one of my guests arrives, I set very clear rules and guidelines to ensure the guest understands the importance of being courteous to my neighbors. None of my guests has ever treated my property or my neighbors with anything but respect.

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Thank you,
Deborah Glassman