

4/14/2015

Andrew Stubinski
10676 Wilkins Ave. #302
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Debby Kim,
Los Angeles City Council

Ms. Kim

Hello, my name is Andrew Stubinski and I have been a resident of the Westwood area since 2007. I know that the City Council will be making decisions very soon regarding the issue of home sharing, and I just wanted to make sure that my voice was heard.

I actually am a home sharing host, and I found it to be a very positive experience not only for myself, but for the local community. I was out of work for a time last year, and home sharing went very far in terms of helping me make ends meet, but that's just my personal story.

I also found it to be very beneficial to the Westwood community. Very frequently, when I had guests staying with me, I would be asked to make recommendations for local businesses (grocery stores, restaurants, dry cleaning, all sorts.) I was able to drive customers into our local businesses with my recommendations.

Also, I would like to write you a bit about the quality and character of the guests I have had. To an individual, all have been quiet and respectful, just the sort of people you would like to have as neighbors. I live very close to UCLA, and a majority of the people who have stayed with me were prospective students and parents making campus visits, as well as parents of existing students visiting their children. I have also hosted visiting lecturers and people who were in the area to make use of the world-famous UCLA Medical Center facilities. Many of these individuals were there for intensive procedures which required them to stay local for a longer period of time, but a hospital stay would either be too expensive or too cold and impersonal to manage for such a period of time.

I also have had a number of people who visit for business reasons and would like to be close to Century City. Again, these are people who are very non-disruptive, and whose net effect is only to bolster the local economy.

Please take my opinion and experiences into serious consideration when deliberating the upcoming vote in city council. Myself and all of my fellow hosts in the Westwood area will be very interested in the outcome. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Stubinski', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Stubinski

Hi, we are Jason and Stephanie Hines.

We are residents of Los Angeles and have some first hand experiences about the current house sharing discussion.

Last year we left LA to travel the world. We stayed with locals every chance we could. We didn't want to see the world as tourists, but rather as locals saw it and learn as much as we could about their culture.

Upon returning from our trip we quickly found that rent had skyrocketed in the one year we were gone. We rented a house with an extra room so we could return the favor of hosting fellow travelers while supplementing our income. We found Airbnb to be the most convenient way to connect with travelers. We often times take our guests out for a night on the town, to concerts on the pier or share breakfast with them on our back patio. And not only do we get travelers, but also people moving to Los Angeles that need a place to stay while they start a new life. The more we can help someone new to this town, the better their chances of success will be.

Airbnb allows tourists to truly feel the beat of the city. But most of all it gives people options. And options drive innovation. The supplemental income we as locals get from Airbnb helps us save to buy a house in this town we call home.

We support home sharing, however, we are highly against commercial ventures buying property and exploiting tourism. This makes home sharers like us look bad. This drives up the price of rent in our neighborhoods. And most of all this turns our neighborhoods into tourist towns where no locals lives anymore.

Our experience traveling abroad made one city in particular stand out. Venice, Italy. When we visited we found a staggering number of workers in Venice don't actually live in the city. 95% of the city has to commute into town every day, creating horrible traffic to serve all the tourists. Now the entire city is a facade owned by commercial ventures.

I don't want our city to become a tourist town. Where traffic will get worse, where people can't bike or walk to work, and locals can't afford to support their community.

Please keep the de facto hotels out.
Keep tourism alive.
Keep locals alive.

Keep Airbnb local.

Thanks for listening,

Jason & Stephanie Hines
Airbnb hosts since 2014