

Dear Councilman LaBonge,

I am aware that the city is in the beginning stages of drafting legislation concerning home sharing and I wanted to write you to show my support for its continuance as well as share my experiences.

I am a single female that rents a spare room in my apartment. The money I am saving from sharing my space with monthly renters has allowed me to move towards my dream of owning my own health and wellness business.

I have also struggled with depression in the past and unbeknownst to them having a temporary guest in my home has helped with the isolation and loneliness associated with depression as well as carried me through financially when my condition was at its worst.

Sharing my home has been one of the greatest experiences I've had! My guests have mostly been international students who come to the city for internships that would not be able to afford to have that experience if they had to stay in a hotel for the duration of their visit. I now have friends all over the world including China, Russia, Germany and France.

I have given all of my guests recommendations on local restaurants, shops, grocery stores and entertainment venues to visit which has stimulated the local economy significantly and I myself have expanded my restaurant and entertainment options due to visiting and discovering new places while showing my guests around town.

I also feel much safer using Airbnb than I have felt looking for roommates on Craigslist in the past. Everyone has been sweet and lovely and I feel that the fact that the site handles all payments and personal information drastically decreases the odds of unsavory characters walking through my door.

Home sharing has had nothing but positive effects on my life. I feel safe, am happier, I have grown culturally, I'm moving steadily towards my goals and I'm sure my neighborhood doesn't mind the extra dollars being spent.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Myself and the other hosts are the heart of home sharing and it's very important that our voices are taken into consideration as you begin making decisions on how to move forward. I'll be eagerly awaiting the outcome.

Sincerely,
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