

Georgia D.
File# 14-1635

Dear Mr. Krekorian,

I am a constituent of yours in Valley Village. I am writing you today to express my concerns about Home Sharing. In 2006 I was forced into early retirement do to an accident and no longer had an income to keep up with my monthly expenses. Soon after I retired I retrieved my granddaughter from the foster system and adopted her in 2008. I started to rent my guesthouse to vacation people and my property for weddings and other events to meet my monthly expenses. I am 64 years old and I don't have any friends with young children. I host many families with children here and it has worked out so nicely having built in playmates for my young daughter, not to mention the wonderful friendships I have acquired. Without this income I could not afford to stay in my home.

There are not many hotels in this area, which is actually good for renting my vacation property, but when I have weddings here I send people who come in for these events to local hotels generating income for them as well. The people who stay here for vacations I recommend local restaurants for dinning out and delivery and local shopping. Grocery stores and dry cleaners also benefit. I offer my guest the option of a private chef and masseuse to come in if they have that preference. Theme parks too are high on the list for all my visitors. All of the above generates income for our community. The 14% occupancy tax also generates income for Los Angeles County.

All of my neighbors are aware of my financial situation and have no problem at all with me renting my guest home. I don't see a downside to home sharing. My hope is that you will also feel the same way when legislations is on the table regarding Home Sharing. Many people in my situation would be negatively compromised if Home Sharing were denied.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns on this matter.

Georgia D.

Council File 14-1635

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield,

It has recently come to my attention that there's an ongoing debate about the effects that the home sharing phenomena is having in our lives and neighborhoods in Los Angeles and I wanted to take the opportunity to share my own experience with you.

When the economic downturn hit and prior to sharing my home, I was struggling to keep up with expenses and survive. I was supporting two teenage kids at the most difficult –and emotionally demanding- time in their lives. They were also struggling to find jobs and figure things out for themselves. The bad economy has been hard on everybody and after depleting my own saving and with no income coming in, I was forced to borrow to pay for the property taxes on the house. This was quite a substantial amount and far more than I could afford, especially in the situation I was in.

I was going into debt at an alarming rate and living in the fear of losing my house and all that I worked for so hard all my life. Dealing with kids and their struggles while been in a position of doubting my own ability to help them and assure their futures was hard and emotionally wrenching at a time when I needed every dime and ounce of energy to set new projects forward and create new opportunities for myself to get ahead.

From the moment that I started sharing my home, it brought immediate rewards. I had a steady flow of income and positive energy from the outstanding human beings from all over the world staying in my empty bedrooms and sharing my home with me. This year and for the first time in a long time I had paid my property taxes in full and without having to borrow anything. While before I was staying home watching every penny, now I go out to local restaurants regularly, shop for goods and services in my neighborhood along with my guests who rely on me to show them where to go and what to do. My own kids have benefited greatly by gaining new perspectives in life.

I've been taking care of long needed repairs to the house and have a steady flow of improvement projects that I'm implementing for the benefit of my guests, but also to improve the value of my home and restore my own sense of ownership of my part of the American dream.

As per adverse effects to my neighbors and neighborhood as a whole initially some parking issues emerged, but mostly related to trash pick-up and blocking the space for the cans to be picked up, but those were promptly resolved by simply communicating the issue with our neighbors and guest. Mind you that in my particular neighborhood (Tarzana) these are for the most part multiple family dwellings of three to five bedrooms where full families with kids used to live. Most of the homes are now empty nesters-- the new flow of visitors is bringing back the very vitality and the buying power that was lost when the kids grew up and left.

I've not only gained stability and peace of mind, but also the confidence and energy to think ahead and put projects forward. I've just hired a part time programmer and I'm preparing to do a Kickstarter campaign for my new virtual reality project in June. My relationship with my kids is better than it has ever been along with my own quality of life, I have new friends, new paces to go and new things to do.

Things have conclusively changed for the best for me and many others like me in the creative community of Los Angeles as a whole. Please take the time to hear our stories and let us prove it

to you. This is a consumer-driven grass- roots phenomena born out of extreme necessity, it's the way out, it's the future and is here to stay. Please help us not only to assure our futures with responsible and sensitive regulation, but the future of our city as a whole. We can lead the way, embrace the future and show the world the way to reap the benefits of grass roots, sustainable wealth and opportunity.

Sincerely,
Pepe Moreno