

Dear Councilman Kouretz-

In light of the motion to start drafting regulations regarding home sharing in LA, we wanted to share our very positive experiences with you.

My girlfriend, Mary and I live in my childhood home in Encino which I purchased from my parents nearly two decades ago. I have been a successful contractor and run my own business in the valley for over 30 years and Mary has been a working actress for more than 20 years. As independent contractors, Airbnb has provided a nice supplemental source of income during slow times in both of our businesses. The help it has provided with my mortgage over the past year has allowed me to keep owning and living in childhood home.

Home sharing has been a great resource to our neighborhood, as we have hosted four guests so far who studied at Menchie's University just down the road from us. Our guests support the community through local restaurants and grocery stores on Ventura Blvd, in the Encino Commons area and the Sherman Oaks Galleria. Most guests rent cars locally and/or utilize the Van Nuys Flyaway. Our guests have ranged from foreign tourists coming to enjoy the local attractions, a Pilates teacher getting certification at an Encino Pilates studio, a producer in town to produce theatre at the Pasadena Playhouse, to a minister taking classes locally.

Without exception our guests have been assets to our community and our experiences as hosts have allowed us to give back to our community. Mary is an active contributor to her local church and to LA's Unstoppable Foundation. She is also a mentor in the LA School District through the Young Storytellers Foundation and is a community partner with this year's North Hollywood CineFest.

I hope you will find, as we have that home sharing is about just that, sharing with the community not taking from it. Over the past year it has made such a positive difference in our lives that we felt the need to do just that, share our thought with you.

Sincerely,

Torey and Mary of Encino, CA