

April 9, 2015

Dear Mike Bonin,

I am writing to you to share the positive benefits I have personally received from the service of airbnb.

I am an artist in the Westchester area and I work in my home on a daily basis. Without the service of airbnb, I would struggle to pay my rent each month. Having airbnb guests subsidizes my rent up to 80%-90%, allowing me to survive and continue to progress with my art as a local small business entrepreneur.

I have enjoyed each and every guest and they have enjoyed me as their host. Some of them have shown interest in my art, which may eventually lead to helping me market my art as well. I have not had any bad experience with airbnb or any guest, in fact I'm always pleasantly surprised by the interaction and connections I have made.

Airbnb is affording me the ability to financially survive while I pursue my entrepreneurial plans. I support the business and opportunity that airbnb provides myself and thousands of others in the LA area.

Sincerely,

Marilyn F.

City Council File #14-1635

Dear Councilman **Mitch O'Farrell** of (our) **District 13**,

My name is Brianna and I live and home share in our district. To me home sharing is more than just money in my pocket to help me make ends meet. Or take a class I wouldn't regularly be able to afford. Or money to be able to pay my bills or my car loan. Or funds to be able to follow my dream without falling into the all too well known cycle of a resentful hospitality worker.

Its money that goes into the registers, pockets and bank accounts of our community. When I host, the most common question asked to me is. "What is there to do around here?" A question one would think null and void in this tech generation of search engine happy folk. But my guests want to know from a real local person where to eat, shop and spend their time and money. I, like the other Airbnb hosts in our district tell them where to do so.

Hosting gives me a sense of freedom and empowerment as a person. It enables me to not be dependent and be self-reliant. It allows me to take care of myself and make decisions out of the best option for me not the only affordable option.

It has many a time paid for my health insurance. Enough said.

Another reason why home sharing has been such an essential part of my life and survival here as an artist is like many other residents in our district, I am part of the melting pot that is L.A. I went through an incredible struggle to obtain my green card and the big host truth is, I wouldn't have been able to do it without Airbnb.

There was a period in my residency application process where my current working visa had expired but I wasn't allowed to leave the U.S. I was stuck with no way to make income. Without Airbnb I may not have my green card today. It provided me with the financial means to survive and follow my dream.

There is another side to home sharing that I never expected. The host/guest community. I've made friends with guests that I ended up seeing again for work in Geneva, Switzerland! A networking opportunity that once again would never had happened if I wasn't a host for Airbnb. I've had guests leave me gifts like a Tibetan teachings book... thanking me

for taking care of them and welcoming them into my slice of life that is LA. That is District 13.

What most people don't understand is I pay taxes. I have requirements and regulations for all my guests to insure that they are not only respectful of my space but my neighbors and community. Not only do I take the precautionary steps to make sure my space is secure but my neighbors and guests are secure as well. My guests don't treat my space like hotel to be disrespected and left to be cleaned. Because they realize it is my home. They do not take up any extra parking spaces. The only thing that they are adding is more surpluses to the local economy.

I am at a loss at the idea that Airbnb may be stopped and that such a wonderful empowering community could penalize us for expanding our horizons. If anything I feel the organization of Airbnb has helped to prevent some individuals from going on financial aid. Furthermore, the hotels in the area are still thriving. So well in fact, a chain hotel is being constructed near me. Surely if they were hurting they would not be building another hotel.

I am in absolute favor of the imminent motion to begin the draft for legislation to regulate home sharing. I believe that this will help the host community to conduct business in a fair and compliant manner, in this regard I implore you to take a closer look at cases like mine, in the hope that Los Angeles, like many other cities around the globe will be able to continue to partake in what is in many cases a beautiful bridge to so much more than someone sharing their home. After all home is where the heart is.

Yours Sincerely,

Brianna

Airbnb Host