

To: Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles, CA
Subject: Homesharing

Dear Councilmember Cedillo

The cynic in me knows a few people are taking advantage of this new technology with detrimental results to the immediate community. I know some policies are needed, however I also believe the majority of people who partake in homesharing have experiences closer to my own.

I first moved to Los Angeles from a small town in Oregon when I was 19. I've worked really hard, delivering pizzas & taking odd jobs for ten years. In June 2014, I've been lucky enough to buy my first home in Highland Park. I love the neighborhood of Highland Park, but I was very surprised that I was able to buy a home here. I just never imagined I'd be able to afford to buy in Angeles, let alone this neighborhood!

The homesharing website, Airbnb, allows me to supplement my income & afford my mortgage on my modest property. Families & friends of my neighbors rent out the small guest house so they can visit their loved ones without over running them. The listing on Airbnb allows tourists the opportunity to stay in Highland Park and experience all the local charms of my lovely & unique neighborhood.

Since I began using homesharing to help afford the mortgage, I've realized how symbiotic the relationship is between ourselves, our community, & our guests. I provide guests with a unique, safe way to see Los Angeles through the lens of our own tiny backyard bungalow. Our community gains the business of tourists who frequently ask for our local recommendations. By way of home sharing, my guest house has given me the ability to afford my mortgage through lean times & the opportunity to introduce lovely travellers from near & far to our precious Highland Park.

Sincerely

Thom Shelton
a Los Angeleno & Airbnb Host