

15-002-556 (23)

To: Los Angeles City Council  
Council File: 15-002-S56  
Resolution to support SB 593 - Thriving Communities and Sharing Economy Act  
June 2, 2015

**I am an LA native born & raised**, my husband and I have lived in Silver Lake for 19 years now. I support this resolution.

**A year ago, the new owners of the house across the street started their 2nd dedicated Airbnb rental.** Many people with luggage, a fraternity party, taxis, uber cars, catering service, a corporate event, filming activities, extra cars parked on my street, a guest wanting to park in my driveway to unload their luggage, for a house that sleeps 14 people. These were NOT my neighbors, these were renters. The owners intimidated and threatened us neighbors because we reported them to Building & Safety and other City officials for the sake of their \$1.8 million Airbnb house. Their first business property is in Los Feliz and has been in operation for 2 years now. My neighbors and I reported it to the City. In retaliation, the owners yelled at me at my front gate, took me to civil harassment court with lies. They made me into an example of what could happen if a neighbor dared to complain. They even called the police against my other neighbors with false allegations about harassing their guests. My city council office informed me that they would issue a compliance letter. I was given a copy of the Alan Bell memo. Yet, these owners are still currently operating their commercial Airbnb business.

**SB 593 will give cities a way to collect information on short term rental businesses.** I have learned a lot in this past year. Most short term rental hosts are in a quandary - should they voluntarily provide rental information, get a business license, pay TOT tax (the bed tax) and reveal that they are violating zoning code, OR continue to operate covertly? But don't forget, they have another option which is currently legal without any new legislation, which is to rent to long term tenants. And in that case they won't even have to pay TOT tax.

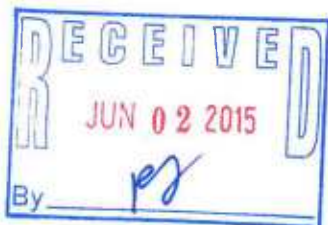
SB 593, by the way, does NOT block the ability of Los Angeles to enact their own regulations for short term rentals in the future. For example, they could loosen the restrictions similarly to what Santa Monica has done recently. Santa Monica now allows what they call "Home Sharing".

**Lately, it seems that some people are egocentric**, doing what they want regardless of what anyone else says, and feel "entitled" to do so. In our civilized society, we are not allowed to do ANYTHING we want. Many Airbnb hosts feel they are "entitled" to rent out their home on a short term basis. But it is breaking the law. And what if the neighbors object, don't they have rights too? Short term rentals in Los Angeles residential areas are ILLEGAL. Contact LADBS or read the LADCP memo by Alan Bell dated March 19, 2014. The problem is that LA City has difficulty enforcing it.

**I am a hard working, middle class Angeleno. But I will never resort to illegal activity.** Just because there are many hosts on Airbnb doesn't make it right. I am a resident in Silver Lake fighting to maintain the character of my neighborhood. SB 593 will allow access to information which could put the "bad actors" out of business. And that is what I hear many Airbnb people want, to get rid of the "bad actors". Hosts operate in the "open" by advertising on the internet. Yet are in the "shadows" because they keep their business information secret until someone has booked their rental. I have been very disappointed, that for a year, the City, LADBS, and The City Attorney's office have not prosecuted or ordered to comply, the owners of the house across the street. This has been my personal fight. It started out as a selfish fight. But now it is more than just my personal fight.

**I want peace in our neighborhoods.** I don't want neighbors fighting because an Airbnb rental is on their street. Clear, understandable laws with the power to enforce is the way to do it. I don't want to have psuedo hotels all around me. It's happening in Venice, Hollywood, Valley Village, Silver Lake and more. I speak for people who have no idea what short term rentals are. Let's protect the character of their neighborhoods as well. A year ago, I had no idea what Airbnb was. Ignorance was bliss. Months before I became aware of this issue, there was a meeting at my Silver Lake Neighborhood Council which was very contentious when it was taken over by very vocal people from Airbnb's lobby group PEERS. Some who disagreed with them, were left in tears. And so what happened after that, was that "we" elected a majority of Airbnb hosts as board members. I had no idea what Airbnb was back then. I was happy and enjoying my home at that time. I voted, but was unaware of the battle.

Thank you, Councilmember Bonin, for proposing this resolution, and thank you to all the City Councilmembers, for your time.



Sincerely,

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For reference: LAANE report, and contact info for Keep Neighborhoods First! a coalition to stop illegal short-term rentals.

10-23  
Good morning Council President Wesson and esteemed City Council Members:

My name is Nicole Bailey-King, and I am a 25-year resident of PicFair Village in the 10<sup>th</sup> Council District.

I would like to speak to you this morning concerning the issue of home-sharing in the City of Los Angeles, and my experiences in terms of its' cultural and economic benefits to me, my family and my neighborhood.

Nearly two years ago, I was strongly encouraged by a friend to make better use of my guesthouse, which at the time was in a state of dyer disrepair, and primarily used as storage. She shared with me how, through home-sharing, she was able to save her home from foreclosure, and suggested that I might do likewise.

Upon taking her advice, and since that time, I have been able to save my home and ~~make numerous repairs and improvements to it.~~ much like the revitalization I've witnessed in my neighborhood over the last several years.

I remember when the Pico corridor of PicFair Village was riddled with mostly liquor stores and automotive repair shops. It now boasts the enjoyment of sidewalk cafes, coffee shops, restaurants, clothing boutiques and gift shops... all of which are patronized by many guests of home-sharers in PicFair Village. I have numerous guests who are parents and grandparents of my neighbors, who come from out of state to visit their families, and thereby extending our neighborhood community.

My family and I have hosted a number of individuals, as well as families from other countries, giving us, not only the opportunity to learn from them, but to share our love for this city as ambassadors. As a native Angelino whose familial history in Los Angeles spans more than 100 years, this is something in which I take great pride.

I, along with many of my fellow home-sharers, would like to be able to continue this amazing journey without having our privacy compromised.

Thank you for your time and attention this morning.

SB 593 is ~~an~~ in vain of that privacy