

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Suzette Kitselman

**Date Submitted:** 08/11/2019 04:36 PM

**Council File No:** 18-1246

**Comments for Public Posting:** To the Respected City Council Members: I am a senior, 62 year old, divorced woman who once owned income properties which I worked decades to buy, but lost all properties in the Great Recession and had to declare bankruptcy. Since then I have been working hard just to keep a roof over my head, and try to build up savings again. Coming out of the Recession has been difficult for most people; not just me. Four years ago I began offering an apartment on Airbnb for short-term rentals. I leased this apartment with the permission and knowledge of the Owner. We put my using it for short-term-rentals right in our Lease Agreement. The Owner can't get families to rent at that location because the traffic and noise make it very undesirable: the building is 1/2 block from the tourist area of Hollywood Boulevard; it's an International Tourist Attraction. The Owner's usual tenants are generally young people who come to LA to "become a star" and end up having to be evicted because they can't pay their rent, throw loud parties at night, or are using and/or dealing drugs. These evictions cost the Owner lots of money, time and trouble, which of course he doesn't like. He prefers the visitors who come to my Airbnb from all over the world, because they are well-behaved, polite, and bring their children for their big vacation in Hollywood, Universal Studios, Santa Monica Pier, etc. It's perfect for families who wish to explore Hollywood as tourists. These families would never be able to come to LA if they only had hotels to stay in! It's just too expensive. Increasing tourism is one of the goals of the City Council, I understand. Perhaps making this area a special 'Tourist Zone' is an idea. The Owner is very happy with me as I pay the rent on time, he likes my guests, and they don't cause problems. He has since offered me more apartments, and now I have a total of three. As for me personally, I live simply, in a rented apartment with a friend, shop at 99 cent store and Trader Joe's, drive a used Prius, and the amount of income I make from these 3 apartments is just barely enough to cover most of my monthly living expenses; although I still cannot afford health insurance. I have paid taxes on the Airbnb income from the beginning. If I am no longer able to operate my short term rental apartments, my safety net will disappear; it will cause me a severe financial hardship and I may not be able to stay in Los Angeles. Also, the housekeeper who helps me clean the apartments between guests is a mother of

four children. Her income will be severely reduced also, putting her family in financial hardship as well. I fear for her well being and that of her family, not to mention my own. And I am not alone in this situation; there are hundreds of us, all with our own stories. I know elderly ladies, widows, who own large homes in Hancock Park where they raised their children, and now rent out the extra bedrooms to help pay their property taxes, (must they sell their green velvet curtains to pay the taxes on Tara?) It helps cover their living expenses. Current restrictions on these women could force them to sell their homes, because they are only allowed to rent out one room at a time. This doesn't make sense and seems to interfere with property rights. Do we not have the right to rent rooms in our homes anymore? Are housemates illegal now, too? Once, the LA Times was the advertising marketplace; now, just because websites like Airbnb and HomeAway connect people, is this a reason to penalize us? PLEASE, GOOD COUNCIL MEMBERS, CONSIDER: Airbnb hosts comprise less than 1% of the housing in L.A. With the explosion of permits issued for apartment buildings in the last 3 years, and all the newly built apartments offered right now, isn't it clear that we are neither a threat to the rental market, nor to the Hotel Industry? Without Airbnb hosting in L.A., the City wouldn't have received over \$100,000,000 in Transient Occupancy Tax revenue from Airbnb. Perhaps some of that could go toward housing the homeless? Just think how the tourist industry will be impacted if the City bans Vacation Rentals in Non-Primary Homes? How much money will our City lose, by denying our operation? It's not just the vacation rental operators who will lose money: the City will lose a great deal of income as well. Why are the Airbnb hosts the target of these restrictions, with hundreds of new apartment complexes being built all over greater Los Angeles? We're not hurting anybody. Please consider how many lives you will be damaging by restricting hosting, and all the travelers who have already booked their plane tickets and accommodations for a dream trip to Los Angeles, California! Please, CONSIDER THIS. We are real people of Los Angeles.

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