

Council File: 18-1246

1 message

Lance Still <lance.still@gmail.com>

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To: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.smith@lacity.org, Councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org
Cc: Chris Carlisle <ccarlisle08@gmail.com>

Dear Members of the PLUM Committee,

Vacation rentals are a regulatory loophole that destroys neighborhoods and creates a nuisance situation which impacts homeowners quality of life and sense of safety

The problem is new neighbor Russian Roulette; these short term rentals fall into a regulatory grey area. A neighbor experiencing a constant churn of new guests has no recourse, AirBnb and other vacation rental platforms are closed loops, you can't post a public complaint, nor can you quickly resolve an issue. The platforms are not incentivized to help, and there isn't a neighborly way to resolve problems.

My household has been disrupted for almost a year now by a short term rental that is right next to my home, their backyard abuts our yard and faces our bedroom and family room area.

The house was purchased, flipped, and sold to a couple who live about a mile away as an investment property. They in turn leased the house to a professional rental company who posts the property on AirBnb, HomeAway, and their own site, LuxuryRentalsGroup.

I have contacted everyone in this chain of responsibility, and very little has been done to address our issues. The owners claim they have no say in the problem as they have leased it out, AirBnb sends a form letter response, and Luxury Rentals has no sympathy or interest in truly helping. Every weekend and holiday turns into new neighbor Russian roulette with loud parties, screaming, unsafe behaviors (including multiple instances of leaving the fire pit unattended), and generally an unpleasant feeling that is out of character with the neighborhood and a nuisance.

We've called the police when late night partying has kept us awake (with all windows closed and fans going to try to block the noise). The police knock on the door, no one answers, the police leave as they can't break down a door over a noise complaint.

As a woman of color, mother, and first-time home owner my heart is broken by what my experience has been. This is not what I pictured during the many years I have been saving to actually own a house.

I ask you to protect homeowners who have invested, not only financially, but also emotionally, in building beautiful, vibrant neighborhoods in Los Angeles. We want to know the people living next to us, and to feel safe in our own homes. Allowing for vacation home rentals to populate residential zones sets up an unregulated hotel, destroying the good character of our neighborhoods as well as the quiet enjoyment all Angelenos are, by law, entitled to.

Please work to protect your constituents by regulating secondary whole home vacation rentals in the same thoughtful way you've worked to draft ordinance CF 14-1635-S2.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Lance Still