

TO: The Los Angeles City Council Economic Development Committee

RE: Motion (Wesson – Bonin – LaBonge) relative to an instruction to the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer to convene a working group of various City departments and stakeholder groups and prepare a comprehensive report on the “Sharing Economy.” (Also referred to Planning and Land Use Management Committee)

FROM: Judith Roth Goldman, Ph.D,
Stakeholder and Resident
jrgposte@aol.com

It is crucial that the Economic Development work-group be a diverse group, made up not only of proponents of the “sharing economy,” but also includes those who are interested in the protection of rent control, the quality of life in residential neighborhoods, labor union issues and other aspects of living a safe and viable existence in Los Angeles. The creation of common sense, safety and risk management regulatory structures is the appropriate way to support new technologies, innovators and entrepreneurs.

The newly drafted Economic Development Motion now before the Los Angeles City Council is of great concern. In reviewing this Motion, I am concerned that it is worded vaguely enough to be an opportunity to consider legalizing currently illegal activities without carefully evaluating what should be considered with regard to legalization, regulation, implementation and enforcement.

Of greatest concern is the instructions to the "working group," which instruct only that the benefits of the “sharing economy” be examined and addressed in the Comprehensive Report and ignore any analysis of the potential adverse economic, fiscal, and social impacts. It would be a disservice to Los Angelinos if the opportunity to explore, analyze and understand not only the benefits, but the serious economic issues and potential adverse impacts of the so-called “sharing economy” were not included in this analysis.

Also excluded is any mention of an examination of the financial injustices of the “sharing economy,” including but not limited to, the potential erosion of the quality of life and fabric of neighborhoods. The impact of short-term rentals on rent controlled housing needs to be examined by the working-group, as does the permanent loss of affordable housing stock and long-term rentals and multi-family and single family dwellings that are rapidly being withdrawn from the housing market.

I believe the term “sharing economy,” as it is currently being practiced, is both a misnomer and a euphemism. Companies like Airbnb use the language of "sharing" to conceal ambitions that are far more self-serving. This model advocates sharing of resources. Profits, however, are privatized.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the above matter.

Judith Roth Goldman, Ph.D, Stakeholder and Resident



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Economic Development Committee

1 message

Elaine Spierer <espierer@verizon.net>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 2:51 PM

To: Richard.Williams@lacity.org

Dear Mr. Williams:

Imagine if you purchased your dream home for your family in Venice because of the reputation which Venice enjoys of a diverse stable residential area filled with neighborhoods and residents committed to preserving this truly one-of-a-kind residential area. Once you moved in, you very quickly realized that many if not most of the properties in your block are filled with transient renters, groups of people having 'reunions' and partying day and night. Pretty shocking thought, right? The neighborhood you thought you were buying into is not-existent. This is the new reality in Venice. Right now, on the two short blocks of Dudley, more than a dozen properties are no longer occupied by owners. They are all transient short-term rental properties where maids roll their carts up the street each morning to change the linens and clean up after the individuals or groups move on. These are all really quasi-hotels being called participants in the 'sharing economy.'

Under the guise of a 'shared economy' syndicators and companies such as airbnb and VBRO have solicited owners of rental units and single family homes to turn their properties over to them and their short-term rental model of renting their properties by the day. Owners will make much more rental income from this rent by the day program and they are signing up in droves. Take a moment and look on the internet to see the thousands of short-term rentals available in Venice. These rentals were previously available to real residents who want to live in a real neighborhood.

Yes, Los Angeles has a clear ordinance restricting rentals in residential areas from renting a property for a term of less than 30 days. It is being ignored. And, worse, it is not neglect. It is being ignored by the Department of Building of Safety because of influence from elected officials. This could be stopped in a blink of an eye instead of the 'wink wink' don't enforce secret order. The big Wall Street and Silicon Valley money is at the ready to fund the election campaigns of our elected officials and they are selling out Venice to curry favor with these people who have no interests except making money. By stealth, these operators have just about stolen our town right out from under its residents. Soon, there won't be any place for people to rent in Venice if this is allowed to persist. This business model must be shut down before it is too late. All of these rentals listed for short-term availability must be prohibited in accordance with the ordinance now operative. It is there for a reason. I hope you will take a clear look at exactly what is going on here under the guise of the new and wonderful 'sharing economy' because these are not rooms with a bath in someone's home being shared--they are elements of a business model with has absolutely no interest in the stability of Venice's neighborhoods or the availability of housing for its residents.

This regulation was put in place to protect the rental stock in Venice and throughout the city from the lowest rate rentals which are under LA rent control laws to market rate homes and units. Preservation of a diverse stable housing stock and maintenance of stable neighborhoods is at stake here. This is a housing crisis in the making.

Because Venice is "cool" it is the target of these entrepreneurs as 'the' place to rent short term. Nothing else matters to these businesses but creating a short-term rental market whatever the cost to our community.

I appeal to you to carefully scrutinize this so-called 'sharing economy' business model. I believe if you do that, you will 'man the barricades' along with the hundreds of Venice residents who have already become alarmed at the loss of our housing stock and the destabilization of our neighborhoods -- all in the name of supporting a false 'sharing economy' which shares nothing with the community which it invades.

Respectfully,
Elaine Spierer
Property owner and landlord

Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>
Council and Public Services
Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Assistant to:
Los Angeles City Council's Economic Development Committee

Subject: Re: Econ. Dev. Committee - **Item #19 (CF 14-1593)**

TO: The Los Angeles City Council Economic Development Committee

RE: Motion (Wesson – Bonin – LaBonge) relative to an instruction to the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer to convene a working group of various City departments and stakeholder groups and prepare a comprehensive report on the "Sharing Economy." (Also referred to Planning and Land Use Management Committee)

(Please print this letter and place in the appropriate file for this project. Thank you.)

The newly drafted Economic Development Motion now before the Los Angeles City Council is of great concern to me and my neighbors. In reviewing this Motion, I am concerned that it is worded vaguely enough to be an opportunity to consider legalizing currently illegal activities without carefully evaluating what should be considered with regard to legalization, regulation, implementation and enforcement.

Of greatest concern is the instructions to the "working group," which instruct only that the benefits of the "sharing economy" be examined and addressed in the Comprehensive Report and ignore any analysis of the potential adverse economic, fiscal, and social impacts. It would be a disservice to our community if the opportunity to explore, analyze and understand not only the benefits, but the serious economic issues and potential adverse impacts of the so-called "sharing economy" were not included in this analysis.

Also excluded is any mention of an examination of the financial injustices of the "sharing economy," including but not limited to, the potential erosion of the quality of life and fabric of neighborhoods. The impact of short-term rentals on rent controlled housing needs to be examined by the working-group, as does the permanent loss of affordable housing stock and long-term rentals and multi-family and single family dwellings that are rapidly being withdrawn from the housing market.

It is crucial that the Economic Development work-group be a diverse group, made up not only of proponents of the "sharing economy," but also includes those who are interested in the protection of rent control, the quality of life in residential neighborhoods, labor union issues and other aspects of living a safe and viable existence in Los Angeles. The creation of common sense, safety and risk management regulatory structures is the appropriate way to support new technologies, innovators and entrepreneurs.

I believe the term "sharing economy," as it is currently being practiced, is both a misnomer and a euphemism. Companies like Airbnb use the language of "sharing" to conceal ambitions that are far more self-serving. This model advocates sharing of resources. Profits, however, are privatized.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the above matter.

Sincerely,
Barbara Peck
Stakeholder



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Economic Development Committee

1 message

Anne Johnson <kawalkid@earthlink.net>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 4:53 PM

To: Tom LaBonge <tom.labonge@lacity.org>, mike.bonin@lacity.org, tricia.keane@lacity.org, herb.wesson@lacity.org, paul.krekorian@lacity.org, Debby Kim <debby.kim@lacity.org>, jose.huizar@lacity.org, nury.martinez@lacity.org, curren.price@lacity.org, gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org
Cc: karla.cortez@lacity.org, richard.williams@lacity.org, Alan.Bell@lacity.org, Kim Arther <Kim.Arther@lacity.org>, David Lara <david.lara@lacity.org>, Tom Rothmann <Tom.Rothmann@lacity.org>, david.cons@lacity.org, Sarah Rascon <Sarah.Rascon@asm.ca.gov>, Eric Menjivar <eric.menjivar@asm.ca.gov>, Yeghig Keshishian <yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>, JEFFREY BERT <jeff.bert@lapd.lacity.org>, LENNING DAVIS <26028@lapd.lacity.org>, Pamela Marcello <Pamela.Marcello@mail.house.gov>

Dear Councilmembers LaBonge, Bonin, Wesson, Krekorian, Price, Cedillo, Martinez and Huizar;

I and many other Los Angelenos are troubled by the growing trend of private residences used as "eco hotels" or short term rentals in R1 and R2 zoned neighborhoods. This illegal practice greatly lessens the number of affordable and rent controlled units available to renters and negatively impacts the sense of community and weakens the fabric of our residential neighborhoods.

Short Term Rentals have nothing to do with what is commonly known as the "shared economy". There is absolutely no sharing involved in this practice. This trend is dominated by less than forthcoming property owners and/or private housing corporations who do whatever they can to avoid laws which protect landlords, tenants and entire neighborhoods. Even though STR website companies like AirBnB have tried to spin the story with a clever and extremely expensive p.r. campaign, the individual short term "host", who rents out a room in his/her home or apartment to stay afloat, represents a small percentage of those who take part in this illegal practice. The overwhelming majority of "hosts" are those who have discovered and profited from an unregulated, illegal and extremely successful get-rich-quick scheme.

When seating the Economic Development Committee Work-Group, please ensure that all opinions and positions regarding the "shared economy", specifically short term rentals, are fairly represented.

Respectfully,
Anne-Marie Johnson
Silver Lake Resident

William V. Ballough