

Fwd: Ordinance CF#14-1635-S2

1 message

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>
To: Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 17, 2019 at 11:59 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Chantal Arnoult** <mvtreehouse@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 17, 2019 at 11:42 AM

Subject: Ordinance CF#14-1635-S2

To: <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, <councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org>, <david.ryu@lacity.org>, <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, <councilmember.englander@lacity.org>, <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>, <councildistrict15@lacity.org>, <cpc@lacity.org>, <matthew.glesne@lacity.org>, <cityclerk@lacity.org>, <sharon.dickinson@lacity.org>, <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>

Dear Council Members and Plum Committee Members,

I am writing you today to alleviate my fear and frustrations with the decisions you have made in regard to STR's. This is my third letter that I'm assuming like the other two, will end up in the electronic trash bin, never being read or acknowledged. I'm not sure if not getting the courtesy of a reply from a councilmember I voted for or the decisions being made on an issue that keeps me awake at night is more upsetting. This is my therapy at this point and I don't anticipate it making any difference in the eyes of those who hold my future or that of my families in their hands.

My story: I am a long-time resident of the city of LA and love this town as a part of my very soul. In late 2012, I fought frantically to return to LA, while going through an international divorce and child custody battle after four years in France. I returned home in my late 40's, two kids, no job and emotionally broken for years. I had a career prior that I gave up, to follow my husband on an adventure abroad, that unfortunately was not the adventure I had anticipated. In the big picture, I consider myself lucky as I have family, friends and own a home in this great city. It took me close to three years of working at jobs I hated just to squeak by enough income to be able to refinance my house so we could move back into it. My focus was my kids and getting back into our home to create stability for us. At the time, their father was paying child support which made that happen. Unfortunately, over time he could no longer afford child support and the \$2,000 a month I counted on stopped, making it hard to cover my mortgage. Fortunately, as part of my part time work, I secured a one bedroom apartment in the Marina that was not being used by my boss who was stuck in New Zealand. I put my house on Airbnb and a light went on in our lives that we have been benefiting from since 2014. It was amazing to be lifted out of the stress and worry. I was no longer completely consumed with financial fears and how am I going to be able to afford the camps and life's expenses with two kids. It definitely wasn't easy but I was so grateful. We moved so many times it was exhausting for me but on the positive it was also an adventure. We never moved far enough away to disrupt school or our social network but we were often never in the same place as a majority of our stuff, so we learned to appreciate the freedom of living light.

While we moved around I planned the building of a rec room with what was left of my retirement savings because my single focus was no matter what, I need that income to make sure my mortgage is always paid. In late 2016, I paid for and was approved for a permit to build a rec room. Then I read articles of how sleeping in a rec room is illegal and if anything happened....etc. Not long thereafter in December 2016, I learned that I could build an ADU. I redesigned and pulled a new permit for an ADU because being legal was really important to me. This unit was built with limited closet space/storage, a shared water and gas meters because I knew I was building this to do a short-term rental. Who at the time, in January of 2017, would have known that you all would decide that ADU's would be the poster child of banned STR's. The plans sat in the backroom of the

building department for six months and at the time I even had a choice of if it would have a separate address because the building department had no idea what to do with these. The guy at the counter even said to me, right now anything goes, there are no rules and no guidelines. My question to you all is, wouldn't it have been more reasonable to ban them from the date banning them became a discussion and public knowledge, so those who had already spent all their money building it for this sole purpose, would not be put in financial distress? My ADU is not set up to be a long-term rental and banning it from Short Term Rental is jeopardizing my long-term security of keeping my house, the very house I spent my retirement savings on, to secure my retirement and my kids future. I am not some greedy person buying up housing stock. I am a single mother who has one property that I put a second unit on to secure my financial future for me and my kids. Why are you singling me out? I realize this may not be personal to you but it is very personal to me. I also understand that I am just one person in a sea of different situations, however it seems to me that the only people not being regulated right now are businesses and developers buying up whole home "vacation rentals".

Please understand that I have deep compassion for the situation we are facing with homelessness in this city. In fact, I am dealing with it myself because my 75 year old mother has no home. Currently she is with my sister while we look to rent her an apartment that we will need to pay for because she is living off a \$900 dollar a month social security check and a part time job at a pre-school. We considered putting her in my ADU but realized that the only way I could afford to pay half her rent is to Airbnb my ADU. Unfortunately, you won't let me do that and long-term rent is not going to cover the cost of half my Moms rent, not to mention my own added expenses. The other option is to put her in one room of the ADU and rent out the main portion but I'm not sure if we can do that either. We have never used the ADU address so how would I prove we are occupying a portion of it? If you have any suggestions on how I am suppose-to navigate this system it would be welcome.

I think that is all I have to say for now. Oh, except your fees for over 120 days are a bit excessive and since I am going out of business I am looking for a job if you know of any that pay more than \$20 dollars and hour?

Thank you.

Host/ Current home owner / resident of West LA and constituent of Mike Bonin.