

RE: Short Term Rentals
To: Councilmember Bonin

I'm writing to express my strong support for clear and fair regulations on homesharing in the city of LA. Through services like Airbnb, Angelinos are able to provide unique and rewarding experiences to guests from all over the world while having a positive impact on individuals and their communities. Councilmembers Bonin and Wesson's motion to draft regulations is a strong first step in ensuring that people like me are able to share our homes with visitors to our city.

We have always enjoyed staying in homes rather than a hotel when we travel. We dreamt that one day it would be amazing for us to share our home to visitors as well.

We have been hosting friends and friends of friends since living in Venice, as is it such a popular place to visit, and we love entertaining and sharing our love of Venice with people from all over the world.

I am a graphic designer by profession and when the economy turned downwards, graphic design jobs have become increasingly difficult to come by and as a result it became harder and harder to make ends meet. My husband is an animation producer and his first feature film took 4 years to make— on a 1.5 year salary. He has been out of work since, straining our household finances further. Also ageism seems to be a factor in getting jobs as we grow older.

We had become behind on our mortgage, and maxed out our credit cards. And so it felt that after living here and loving our community for 32 years, the harsh reality set in that we may have to sell our home.

We mentioned our situation to a friend— and she told us about Airbnb. I immediately checked out the website, thought it was amazing, and put up a listing of a room in our home the next day and started receiving requests shortly thereafter!

We are now able to catch up monetarily, live in our beloved home, and we thoroughly enjoy hosting with Airbnb — my dream has come true! The guests who have been responsible, wonderful guests to my neighborhood and I have even developed personal friendships with some of them.

In one instance, a girl named Regina came to visit my home from Russia. It was her lifelong dream to come to America and learn English! By the time she was set to leave, she had fallen in love with Venice and really wanted to stay here. I enjoyed her company so much that I allowed her to continue staying with me and she helped make my homesharing experience a success by helping with everyday tasks. Eventually she started dating a lifelong Venetian surfer and now has plans to start a life of her own in this unique neighborhood. It feels so fulfilling and rewarding to help someone else realize their dreams and it wouldn't have been possible without Airbnb.

While enjoying hosting guests, and having the comfort of a steady income, I still have

the freedom of taking on freelance design jobs as they come my way. This allows me to pursue my career passion while now taking on a new passion of being an ambassador to my neighborhood.

We are so happy that we have been able to share our home and love and knowledge of Venice with hundreds of travelers from all over the world for 3 years now, and so I urge city council to adopt reasonable and clear regulations that will protect my ability to share my home in the future.

Signed,

Lisa P.
Longtime Venice Resident and 11th District Constituent