

To: Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles, California

Subject: Homesharing- Council File #14-1635

Dear Councilman Tom Labonge:

It came to my attention that there is some very intense controversy regarding homesharing in Los Angeles.

I would like to share my experience as a host of Airbnb over the last two and a half years here in Los Angeles.

Before I do so, let me tell you a bit about myself: I have lived and worked in Los Angeles since 1995. For the past 10 years, I have been fortunate enough to live in the Silverlake neighborhood where I have been practicing real estate and teaching zumba. However in 2013, I went through a divorce which left my 15 year old daughter and myself in a difficult financial situation. We opened our home with Airbnb in November 2013 for the first time. We mostly rented our home when we were going away to see my family who lives in France. This year, for the first time in 20 years, and thanks to Airbnb, I will be able to see my mom twice. A blessing from this 21st century. Very recently, we decided to rent one room, and I offered my daughter to split the money since she was giving up her bedroom. She was ecstatic, felt less guilty in asking for books, dance summer intensive (she is a ballerina), dance clothes etc. and she got some pocket money for the first time in her life.

From a community perspective, I got to introduce visitors from all over the US to LA and Silverlake and its numerous restaurants and landmarks. Not only is it highly profitable for local businesses, but also, it helps create a positive social awareness, an empowering feeling of being a good citizen.

Airbnb's support for their Hosts and Guests is perfect and 24/7. Their internet platform is very user friendly and they are all about the community. Airbnb is what comes after Facebook, one of the most powerful worldwide organizations for people to help each other.

I can't imagine losing Airbnb as it would have a negative economical impact for the communities as well as for the city of LA.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kareen S.
Airbnb Host