

Communication from Public

Name: Melanie Algas
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Council File No: 14-1635-S10
Comments for Public Posting: My husband and I started renting an upstairs bedroom in our home in Woodland Hills on Airbnb in 2016, but paused once the pandemic hit. We were planning to resume hosting early next year after completing some home repairs. We are on-site hosts, eliminating situations that might result in neighbor complaints. We've been homeowners in Woodland Hills since April 1991. My husband is permanently disabled, so only receives Social Security. I recently learned my position at work has been eliminated after 14 years, so am currently unemployed. We were looking forward to this additional income to help meet expenses. A maximum of only 120 nights per year would severely restrict income. Short-term renting vs. long-term renting also allows the room to be free when our daughter visits. My understanding was that the fees paid for short-term renting up to and exceeding 120 days would support the City/Host Compliance in overseeing compliance by hosts. Repealing the extended home share permit due to some hosts not following the rules is not fair for hosts who do follow the Ordinance. Why should private homeowners renting a room in their home be required to obtain a police permit? This would require yet an additional step to the process involving fingerprinting, background search as well as additional fees -- and burden the police force with additional administrative work. I ask that Councilmember Bob Blumenfield support our right to host, based on the existing Ordinance. Multiple San Fernando hosts attended LA City Council meetings at the time to that end. [Note: I originally submitted this statement on 11/27 and verified my email address when I received the confirmation. The email advised it would show up within 24 - 48 hours, but it hasn't posted. I spoke to Octavia today at the Office of the City Clerk who suggested I could submit it again.]