

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Susan Mitchell <snoozindc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 3:01 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Short term rental rule

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My husband and I own and have lived in a home in American University Park for 32 years where we raised four sons. We owned and operated retail businesses in the area for a number of years, but, unfortunately, had to close them as a result of the 2008-2009 financial crisis. Since they were the only source of our income, we decided to rent four of our bedrooms in our home in order to meet our financial obligations.

Initially we used Craig's list to find renters and through word of mouth, started renting to State Department personnel connected with USAID and hosting people from Latin and South America through Partners of the Americas administered by Georgetown University. As the financial crisis worsened and professional employment in many US cities became harder and harder to come by, we ended up getting long term people coming to Washington to work . . . architects, journalists, IT consultants etc. As some of these people moved out of our house after being here for 3 to 4 years, we started using Airbnb for 3 of the rooms. I must say we love it . . . we've met 100's of people from all over the world.

These are people that come to Washington as tourists, to attend conferences, to visit relatives, to take exams etc.. . what's really important to understand is that most of these people, I'd say over 90%, would not be able to afford to come to DC if it weren't for Airbnb. Airbnb provides an alternative to expensive hotels and affords an opportunity to 1000's of people to come to DC, who otherwise could not afford to do so . . . I guess it can be equated to "affordable housing" for visitors.

In summary without the income we receive from Airbnb guests, we could not afford to meet our financial obligations and furthermore would probably have to move out of the DC area. Lastly we provide a friendly, comfortable, and relatively inexpensive lodging for visitors who otherwise could not afford to come to Washington.

Please don't change our lives and the lives of many others for the unfair benefit of a few.

Sincerely,
Susan A Mitchell
Airbnb Super Bonus Host