

17 October 2019

District of Columbia Office of Zoning  
One Judiciary Square  
441 4th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

To whom it may concern:

My name is Anneliese Bruner, and I am a 28-year resident of Ward 4 and a 35-year resident of the District of Columbia. I am 60 years old. Over the years, long-term residents have witnessed--and been buffeted by--many political and economic forces. During the years 1991 to 1995, Sharon Pratt Kelly (the third mayor of DC and the first African American woman to serve as mayor of a major American city) said that residents of the District of Columbia were sitting on a gold mine. Time has shown Mayor Kelly's words to be prescient; it is now commonly acknowledged that DC is a gold mine, and everybody wants a share.

That was not always the case. Long-term residents saw our city devalued and overlooked, and we struggled to stay here in the face of declining services and investment. Today, some of us still fight to stay here, but it's a different struggle; rapidly rising property values, property taxes, and utility costs have caused those of us who are older and want to remain in the city and homes we love to wonder if that will be possible. The short-term rental business that is made available to us through Airbnb lets us use our primary asset to generate the income we need for home maintenance, taxes, and steady, predictable income that we can rely on.

As people my age plan for retirement, a time when many must take on part-time jobs to supplement their retirement income, we Airbnb hosts already have a mechanism in place to help us plan. That mechanism is the monthly income that we can depend on from continuing our Airbnb businesses right from our own homes. I support short-term rental regulation, and hope that it will ensure the continuing viability of the Airbnb platform in Washington, DC.

Thank you.

Anneliese M. Bruner