

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Hanousek, Donna (DCOZ)
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 3:23 PM
To: Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)
Subject: FW: Zoning Commission Re: Airbnb

Pat please add this to the record.

Donna

From: Louis Orphanos [mailto:louis631@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 2:27 PM
To: Hanousek, Donna (DCOZ) <Donna.Hanousek@dc.gov>
Subject: Zoning Commission Re: Airbnb

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Dear Sirs and Madams,

We're sorry we are unable to attend the meeting this evening concerning the future of Airbnb in DC. So were writing to voice our concerns and opinions and hope you will consider them as you come to conclusions about its future.

We are two senior citizens who have lived in the District for 35 years. We raised our children here and still teach piano in our home studios as we have for over 30 years. We decided to try hosting guests a few nights a week when we're not teaching as it's clear that we won't be able to teach forever. We don't want to move away as this is our home. We own it and our grandchildren are here too. AirBnB offered us the perfect solution.

We began offering our downstairs studio a few nights a week. The results have been stellar. Most come by Uber...others have used Bike Share and some drove. We've pointed them to the local eateries on MacArthur Blvd...7th Hill Pizza, Black Coffee, the Boathouse, the CVS, to name a few businesses we know have already benefitted by their stay here. Several have come for interviews at Georgetown U. applying for med school, one for nursing overnight also at Georgetown, another to work 4 days for the cancer radiology center there, a lovely couple from Hagerstown to see a late show at the Kennedy Center, a mother to visit her freshman year daughter at the Mount Vernon Campus of George Washington U. The point is, most of these guests were here for one night or two and use the overnight and use the local businesses and restaurants, ride shares, and services available in DC. They wouldn't afford a hotel at 200 plus dollars a night. We're neighborhood and affordable.

On our side of the equation, we're able to make enough to supplement our social security income and use our home instead of having to sell it. How many seniors are in this predicament? Are you trying to deny us our right to use our own property to supplement our income? Were 71 and 66. There aren't a lot of job openings in our age bracket. We bring customers to our local stores...visitors to our attractions and museums. This is not a bad thing.

Please consider our input while discussing changes to Airbnb. Other cities are welcoming our services. DC should too.

Sincerely,
JoLynne Thomas Hough
Louis Orphanos
Airbnb Super Hosts
The Palisades, NW
Washington DC