

From: [Cecille Gregorio](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Short Term Rentals
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 11:13:37 AM

Dear Mayor, Honorable Councilmembers:

I had the pleasure of being an Airbnb host for 6 years and worked for Bearbnb KC for the past 5 years.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed ban on Airbnb in our city. As a resident and frequent traveler, I believe that Airbnb provides a valuable service that benefits both hosts and guests.

Firstly, Airbnb offers a more affordable and unique accommodation option for travelers who want to experience our city in a more local and authentic way. Traditional hotels can be expensive and often lack character, whereas Airbnb rentals provide guests with the opportunity to stay in charming homes or apartments that reflect the local culture and architecture.

Secondly, Airbnb provides a valuable source of income for hosts, many of whom rely on the extra income to make ends meet. This is particularly important for those who may be struggling financially, such as single parents or retirees.

Furthermore, Airbnb also encourages tourism and boosts the local economy. Guests who stay in Airbnb rentals are more likely to patronize local businesses and attractions, which in turn creates jobs and generates revenue for the city.

My company specifically has worked with so many organizations such as Catholic Charities of America to house 3 refugee families from Afghanistan 2 years ago through <https://www.airbnb.org>

I remember this being a very humbling experience for us. These families were new to America and we had the pleasure of serving them, providing a safe shelter from the famine and war they had gone through. I remember in one of our service calls, our maintenance man had to fix a broken dishwasher and they offered us a bread made from scratch to express their gratitude.

I've seen social media depictions of short term rentals and they are so opposite from what we've experienced. Most of our renters, for instance, are displaced families who suffered a tragic house fire, people who are working on projects---companies who opened several restaurants and several businesses in the city. We even have a group that had been with us for a month working for the NFL draft. These people bring value to our city—they don't want to be cramped in an expensive hotel that doesn't have a full kitchen or an outdoor area at their disposal.

In addition, there are many people like me who depend on short term rental services to make our ends meet. Some hosts rely on this income to sustain their day to day living when they fall on hard times or when their day job isn't enough.

Tourism is important for Kansas City. It brings money into the local economy and makes the city a more vibrant place to live. We love interacting with our guests and believe that Airbnb offers a new and special way for travelers to experience a city.

I understand that concerns have been raised about the impact of Airbnb on housing affordability and availability, but I believe that these issues can be addressed through sensible regulations rather than an outright ban.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposed ban on Airbnb and instead work towards finding a solution that balances the needs of hosts, guests, and the community as a whole. Thank you for your attention to this matter.