

From: [natasha irasuegui](#)
To: [Hall, Heather](#); [ONeill, Kevin](#); [Loar, Teresa](#); [Justis, Amy](#); [Ellington, Brandon](#); [Robinson, Melissa](#); [Shields, Kathryn](#); [Bunch, Eric](#); [Barnes, Lee](#); [Parks-Shaw, Ryana](#); [Bough, Andrea](#); [McManus, Kevin](#); [Platt, Brian](#); [Lucas, Quinton](#); [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Airbnb meeting April 19
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 4:30:54 PM

Good evening – My name is Natasha Stewart and the reason for the email is due to the Airbnb policies the city wants to implement. I have owned permitted Airbnb not only in the Kansas City, MO area, but I have also owned them in other cities and states.

I understand the concerns the city does have regarding Airbnb due to the stigma and bad apples that are not only in this industry, but in any industry if we are being honest. However, I do not understand why the city would want to penalize the owners that are not only permitted, but also have systems in place to not only ensure the safety of the neighborhood, but also of the guests.

I have heard many say that due to Airbnb's in the city there has been an increase in homelessness, and housing availability. I do not see how Airbnb's are the problem to the increase of homelessness. If you walk the streets of Kansas City, you will see an increase in homelessness, but you will also find those individuals need medical attention due to his/her mental state and drug use. Those homeless individuals cannot seek work least of all be able to support themselves in his/her current condition. I believe the City of Kansas City should focus on seeking resources in helping the homeless by providing medical, shelter, and resources that can maybe help them in future seek employment and section 8 housing. However, to say that Airbnb is the cause of this problem is not only turning a blind eye to those Americans but is also a scapegoat the city is using to wash their hands of the problem.

The other concern I have heard voiced by the City Council and constituents is the Housing problem is due the Airbnb's in the city. Does the council not realize that inflation is at a high, so the price of everyday goods and services have increased in the last handful of years, and your constituents are now living paycheck to paycheck. Due to the high inflation, we have also seen an increase in interest rates. That being said a homeowner who purchased a home with a variable interest is now paying more for the same house he purchased. I do not see where a landlord/investor owning an Airbnb is the cause of the housing situation. If anything, due to the high cost of materials, labor, and cost of living, individuals who at one point were wanting to downsize their home or were in the market for a larger home, have put a pause as the economy is in a volatile state.

Airbnb's have been around for several years, and as an owner of Airbnb's I have provided shelter to out of state contractors, schools, insurance claims (those who have lost their homes due to natural disaster or fire), and we have also provided for travelers coming to see this beautiful city.

If you want to have an honest conversation about Airbnb's you can reach me at 786-379-8643. I have always worked with the City of Kansas City not only on my Airbnb being permitted, but also any rehabs I have done in the city to ensure permits were pulled, and everything was done up to par.

Sincerely

Natasha Stewart