



August 12, 2015

Dear Mayor Faulconer and Member of the San Diego City Council:

San Diego has a vibrant and thriving Airbnb community of responsible hosts, respectful guests, and a long-standing short term rental industry. Home sharing allows San Diegans to turn what is typically one of their greatest expenses into a tool to help make ends meet. Most of our hosts share their homes to pay the bills or fund needed home improvements. Additionally, Airbnb guests generate sustainable, local economic activity that supports small businesses across the City.

For decades tourists have visited San Diego to enjoy the city and rent homes or rooms for their vacations. As services like Airbnb have grown in San Diego, our company and our community have engaged with the Mayor and City Council to enact smart, fair regulations that will help people share the home they live in.

However, City code enforcement officials are sending mixed messages to San Diegans who share their homes. Earlier this year, the Code Enforcement Section of the City's Development Services Department levied a six-figure fine against a retired school [teacher](#) who shared her spare bedrooms with guests. San Diego City Council leaders have acknowledged that the City's code is confusing and clarification is needed. They are currently in the process of considering these changes.

While the City Council is considering ordinance and code changes that would address this activity, regular San Diegans like Rachel should not be penalized. Accordingly, we are calling for the City to stay the full amount of Ms. Smith's fine and suspend enforcement efforts against other home sharers until the City Council completes its consideration of these code changes. This is not an uncommon practice for the many cities who are currently navigating short term rental reform. For example, the City of Boston has done this as opposed to trying to target their own citizens trying to earn extra income.

Airbnb hosts like the person mentioned above should not have to pay this fine while the city of San Diego is still figuring out how to best enable people to share their homes.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and are confident we can work together to craft clear, fair rules for home sharing in San Diego.

Sincerely,
David Owen
Public Policy, Airbnb