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To: sandracampostq@yahoo.com
Subject: Short Term Rental
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 11:32:07 PM

Dearest Kansas City Council Members,

I am writing this letter because I am a part of Stacey Johnson Cosby's group and I was told about the new restrictions on Airbnbs in Kansas City. I was informed that the city council is going to be implementing new laws about STRs in residential neighborhoods, requiring permits for Airbnbs, and also requiring the owner of the house to occupy it. I am writing to appeal to your sense of community and to hopefully come to good faith compromises on these issues because without them, my family will suffer undue hardship and loss of income. It is not that I do not understand or that I do not want common sense restrictions and permits, but they come at a cost to my family when they are implemented harshly, without time to adjust or to comply.

I have been working with the company Broom & Bear as one of their contract maintenance workers for the past two years. Because of their partnership with Airbnb, I have been able to pay for my child's first year at KU as a single mother. I agree that permitted Airbnbs make more sense and that they put neighbors and the community at ease, but as I know the process of trying to acquire these permits intimately, and I know that the permit is not easy to get, it does not have a clear process for acquiring it, and they can be expensive. I know from my experience as an employee and from my relationships with the clientele that one can reach out for a permit and never have an answer because the questions fall on deaf ears and on overrun staff. I also know that neighborhood signatures are a death sentence for permits as well and that this has gotten in the way of those people who are just wanting to do the right thing and get their locations permitted. The process is long and it is not always clear. I write to you about this because if the new restriction and permit rules are implemented, without a grace period and without compromise, these clients will pull out of Kansas City which would leave me without any contracts from Broom & Bear, directly impacting my ability to provide food and shelter for my family. As a Mexican immigrant woman, who has worked tirelessly to be able to give my family and my loved ones everything they need, it does not feel fair. As a new citizen of this country, who believes in the good-hearted nature of our representatives as well as their true intentions to do right by the little guy, it does not feel fair. I know that the right thing to do is to allow Airbnbs time to comply with the new permits by giving them time to make the change, and by sending out important information about acquiring permits. This would be a perfect compromise to ensure the safety and comfort of neighbors while also ensuring that those of use employed by Airbnb and Broom & Bear have time to make the appropriate changes.

As someone who oversees many cleanings and makes sure that Airbnb patrons are comfortable with their accommodations and their stays, I know firsthand that we are careful to ensure that travelers know that there are rules about noise levels and parties as well as dirtiness and obnoxiousness. It is my job to report to my superiors when patrons bring dogs that are not allowed which may harm others as well as letting them know of any breaking of rules in regards to parties, uncleanliness, and unruliness. The last thing that I or my employers want is to make life unlivable or uncomfortable for neighbors. I am proud of my city and of our communities and I want to keep being so. To that end, I always ensure that I report parties, and rule breakings in regard to trash, bad home hygiene, and yard maintenance. I am also part

of the team that ensures that yards and trash are picked up so that they remain beautiful for our communities and our neighbors. I know that with time and understanding, we can all thrive and come to an agreement that we can all be happy with.

Broom & Bear and Airbnb have changed my life by allowing me to provide for my family. And it is not just me but they have also given my sons jobs, as well as my daughter, Ariel. Because of Broom & Bear, we no longer worry ourselves sick about light bills, food insecurity, or rent. Because of Airbnb, I have been able to keep my family afloat as a single mother. Broom & Bear and Airbnb have been wonderful employers, helping the community at large, giving second chances and jobs to people who otherwise would never have been given the opportunity to redeem and make something of themselves in this country. I know that I can rely on them as employers to uphold the values of diversity and inclusion and that, unlike many other employers in the Kansas City area, they would never discriminate against me because I come from another country or because of the color of my skin.

Hurting Airbnb, and Broom & Bear as a result, directly hurts my family. Implementing rules that lessen guest counts from 10 to 8 make it harder for them to keep clients in Kansas City which in turn takes away jobs and contracts from me and the people I love. Not allowing non-owner occupied STR's in R zones as well as implementing rules about 1000 foot density is not fair to them because it limits their potential and return limits job opportunities and hurts my income and well-being. Compromise is needed to ensure safety and fairness toward everyone. A 250-500 foot density compromise is fair in my opinion to keep neighbors happy while ensuring that I can keep my livelihood and that of my family.

I ask you all to please give us a bit more leeway and more time in regards to the new restrictions. Allowing us six months to comply with the permit rules and meeting Broom & Bear and Airbnb halfway on these issues will allow my family to continue to have steady incomes so that my children can focus on putting money toward and pursuing their education and happiness. Without compromise my family will suffer undue hardship, loss of income and shelter, as well as anxiety, depression, and stress from having our incomes and way of life taken from us. In this career, I finally have the flexibility to make the income I need to make in order for ends to meet, while still having time to take care of my family as a single mother. I only ask that you consider this and that you allow us time for resources, and bend a little so that you can see where we are coming from.

Respectfully,

Abigail Flowers
Employee at Broom & Bear