**Airbnb Response**

I have been an Airbnb host since 2018. I am grateful for the income that I have been able to earn to supplement my monthly income so that I can underwrite the living expenses for me and my family. I think it is deceptive for any politician to state or imply that Airbnb hosts are generally conducting illegal businesses. Whilst that may be so for a few, have any of those against Airbnb done the research or investigated those who are supposedly violating housing rules? I have included Airbnb income in all my tax returns and am already paying taxes for my home. Besides, New York City housing officials have demonstrated that they are more interested in the rights of tenants than the landlord. I accrued thousands of dollars in legal fees as well as a loss of rental income from my last tenant who added insult to injury by damaging my property which resulted in my investing more money to restore it to its original condition. NYC utility company did not make any concession for the increased heating bill I incurred because the tenant spitefully turned up the heat and broke the front window of the home during the dead of winter. If law-abiding Airbnb hosts such as myself should decide to no longer host visitors, this would NOT resolve the so-called housing crisis, as the annual rental that anyone would pay would far exceed what I earn from hosting Airbnb guests. In case you are unaware, we do not have a guest in our home every day of the year. In addition, New York City and the small business owners in my community would lose income derived from the guests who we host from all over the world. These guests choose our homes instead of the average hotel room (with limited capacity per room, no cooking facility or amenities to reduce cost). The average cost of a decent hotel in NYC is $300 per night. The entire NYC tourism industry would be seriously impacted if Airbnb hosts should discontinue their service, something that we would not want to do. There is no law-abiding citizen who frowns upon legislation that is fair and reasonable. However, I do not believe that this proposal is fair or reasonable. This is my home that I choose to make available to guests, some who repeatedly visit my home because the accommodation is more affordable than the standard hotel. Besides, they also appreciate and enjoy the hospitality of the hosts, and value the opportunity to connect with local residents such as myself who help them with identifying and accessing jewels in the city that they would not generally be made aware of if they were staying at the standard hotels. Therefore, why should I have to be legislated like, or more than the hotels in NYC? I ask that you consider our situation, and build affordable homes for New Yorkers to address the city’s housing crisis.