

From: Darinka Blagaj
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 8:32 PM
To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Airbnb in London

City Council

Dear London City Council,

This is a letter to share my positive experience visiting London, only because I could rent an Airbnb. I hope that by reading this warm experience in my family's memories, you consider seriously to keep Airbnb's open in London.

If it wasn't for Airbnb, we would not have come to London, not spent money in the city and not have known what we are missing!

Christmas time and myself a single mom with my two adult children were looking to get away together on a winter adventure. We live in downtown Toronto areas in different houses.. We immediately began to look for Airbnb experiences out of the city. WE love the care people put into their Airbnb rentals.

A hotel never crossed our minds. And it could not fill our needs either.

Our desire was to get to know another city or town, cook a fabulous Christmas dinner together and enjoy the comforts of crafting, baking in a different space that was lovingly set up for a full family with full kitchen and baking and cooking supplies, lovely rooms and a comfortable living room - a home away from home where we could hike, shop and the city centre. We even met new friends who are long time residents of London.

We found all we were looking for in a wonderful Airbnb house in London. That made us choose the city as a destination. We were thrilled and have such beautiful memories of all of us knitting a hat, baking cookies and making lovely meals. We loved wandering the parks, and trails.

This could never have happened in a hotel room. We are big travellers and always stay at Airbnb's. Venice, Italy offered us a glorious apartment to enjoy as a home base, as did Paris, Versailles, Malta and Gozo (the island off Malta). Both my children rent Airbnb's when they travel, in Hawaii, Malaysia, Israel. The world has changed and cold isolating hotel rooms do not serve our adventures hearts nor our various dietary needs. Knowing we can buy groceries and make the foods we eat, as being able to know local markets and shops is comforting to us and needed.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

darinka blagaj