To Whom it may concern,

I am puzzled by the debate surrounding potential new regulations on Air BNB's. As a lifelong Winnipeg resident, small business owner, Father, and coach, the last two years have been arduous for all. Our city has been ravaged by the closure of many small businesses, many of which will never open again. I have travelled the World extensively and have used the services of Air BNB's in many countries. I prefer using Air BNB's over traditional hotels for many reasons but one of them is that I'm contributing directly to the local economy and local people. The same cannot be said for large hotel chains that in many cases are owned by corporations whose headquarters lie outside the country. This doesn't benefit the local economy with the exception of their paid employees as the bulk of the revenue often times doesn't stay within the local economy or country for that matter.

When I use Air BNB I receive a personalized experience of whichever city or country I'm in and have never had a negative experience. Hosts of Air BNB's provide a personalized experience and usually have great suggestions for local attractions, restaurants etc. I'm not suggesting that hotels cannot provide this service but it is much more impactful when it's coming directly from a host that owns the property and in many cases resides in close proximity.

Given the much more pressing issues facing our city; gang violence, crumbling infrastructure, strained healthcare system etc. Wouldn't the city resources be put to better use in other areas? It seems that shutting down or over-regulating Air BNB's would be very low on the priority list of useful things to spend our tax dollars on. Coupled with the fact that many people have pivoted during these last two years of economic strife and used their skills and resources to not only increase their personal revenue and provide for their families, but have also contributed to providing accommodations for incoming tourists visiting Winnipeg. We have a hard enough time as it is attracting people to our city and I feel that limiting or over-regulation of Air BNB's would not be beneficial and simply add to the tourism challenges Winnipeg faces.

I trust your council will engage in balanced debate on this issue and provide a fair playing field for all when it comes to people paying for an accommodation experience. Most importantly let the market decide as the consumer should have the final vote on where they spend their hard earned money. It would be a shame if our city chose to not support the many people that rely on their Air BNB income and instead choose to support large Internationally owned hotel chains where the majority of their revenue doesn't stay local or even within the country. My choice has always been Air BNB for the reasons listed above and it would be a shame if the City of Winnipeg chose to oppose this wonderful service. Thank you

Healthy Regards,

Jeff Palmer