

May 19, 2016

Michael Capiraso  
President and CEO  
New York Road Runners  
156 West 56<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10019



**Airbnb:  
Bad for NYC**

**Re: AirBnb Brooklyn Half Marathon**

Dear Mr. Capiraso:

As the world's premier community running organization, New York Road Runners is a model to other organizations all over the world. Because of that, the undersigned runners, housing activists, elected officials, and members of the New York Road Runners community are writing to express our concerns and disappointment that Airbnb is sponsoring the Brooklyn Half Marathon for the second straight year.

NYRR is a non-profit organization whose values include service and integrity. Having Airbnb as the major sponsor of one of NYRR's most popular races would appear to compromise those values. Airbnb is a corporation whose business model exacerbates the affordable housing crisis in New York City and other cities in the U.S and around the world and flagrantly violates laws.

Airbnb has a demonstrably negative track record in New York City. It flouts New York laws by providing a platform that facilitates the illegal rental of residential apartments on a short-term basis (less than 30 days), thus removing apartments from the available stock that New Yorkers so desperately need. Despite numerous requests to do so, Airbnb has consistently failed to prove itself a responsible corporation and remove illegal listings from its site.

These short-term rentals, commonly referred to as illegal hotels, create quality of life and safety issues for tenants and communities alike, including noisy and disruptive guests, late night partying, and safety risks for all – including the guests, as a steady stream of unvetted strangers occupy residential buildings. Tourists are also placed at risk as residential buildings do not meet the more stringent fire codes required of transient hotels. And tenants who rent out their apartments may unknowingly place themselves at risk of eviction for violating their lease.

Airbnb contributes to increased rents in neighborhoods where minority communities that are struggling to keep a toe in their long-time neighborhoods. The Brooklyn half marathon begins in Crown Heights, Brooklyn – one of New York's most rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods. *Crown Heights has been targeted by Airbnb as a neighborhood where the company intends to increase its footprint.* Yet a data analysis of Airbnb listings shows that at least 43% of them are operating illegally, and nearly 30% of them are held by hosts with multiple listings – meaning that apartments are being artificially held off the market so that they can be used as hotels.

Beyond the negative impacts on the housing market, Airbnb's illegal business practices have rightly drawn intense public scrutiny and criticism from housing organizations, elected officials and law

enforcement officials. In fact, an investigation by the New York State Attorney General found that nearly three-quarters of all Airbnb rentals in New York City are illegal and violate rent laws, hotel laws, fire codes and zoning regulations. The investigation also revealed that a majority of the company's revenue in New York City comes from big commercial operators that illegally rent out multiple unoccupied apartments as illegal hotels on a full-time basis instead of making them available on the housing market for New Yorkers. For these reasons, we are concerned by New York Road Runners' encouraging runners to list their apartments on Airbnb. By doing so, NYRR is exposing its running community to displacement and eviction.

As New York City faces a severe housing crisis, we encourage NYRR to end its relationship with this predatory and opportunistic company. Further, we urge NYRR to issue a statement to its members warning them of the perils of renting on Airbnb.

Sincerely,

Housing Organizations

Association for Housing and  
Neighborhood Development  
Brooklyn Socialist Club  
Carroll Gardens Association  
CASA  
Clinton Housing Development Co.  
Community Development Project  
At the Urban Justice Center  
Cooper Square Committee  
Crown Heights Tenant Union  
Fifth Avenue Committee  
Goddard Riverside Law Project  
Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Association  
Housing Conservation Coordinators, Inc.  
Housing Court Answers  
Met Council on Housing  
MFY Legal Services, Inc.  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
New York City Left Wing Football Club  
Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp.  
St. Nick's Alliance  
Tenants & Neighbors  
Tenant PAC  
United Neighbors Organization  
Urban Homesteading Assistance Board  
West Side Neighborhood Alliance

Elected Officials

NYS Senator Liz Krueger  
NYS Senator Brad Hoylman  
NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera  
NYS Assembly Member Maritza Davila  
NYS Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick  
NYS Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried  
NYS Assembly Member Walter T. Mosley  
NYS Assembly Member Diana C. Richardson  
NYS Assembly Member Linda B. Rosenthal  
NYC Council Member Laurie Cumbo  
NYC Council Member Brad Lander  
NYC Council Member Mark Levine  
NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso  
NYC Council Member Helen Rosenthal  
NYC Council Member Jumaane D. Williams  
NYC Council Member Corey Johnson



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#RunFromAirbnb  
#AirbnbBADforNYC