March 19, 2014

To: Council Offices
    Other Interested Parties

From: Alan Bell, AICP
      Deputy Director of Planning

Subject: Short-Term Rentals

This memorandum answers frequently asked questions about how the zoning laws in effect today regulate short-term rentals in the City of Los Angeles.

1. What is a short-term rental?

In Los Angeles, short-term rentals include all or any portion of residential buildings that are designed or used for occupancy for a period of 30 consecutive calendar days or less, counting portions of calendar days as full days. While this definition typically applies to hotels or motels, it also applies to any other residential buildings (including one-family dwellings) that are designed or used for occupancy of 30 or fewer days.

2. Where are short-term rentals allowed?

Short-term rentals may be allowed in commercial zones; the RAS4 residential accessory services zone; and the R4 and R5 higher-density multi-family residential zones. The rules governing short-term rentals in these zones are complex. In some cases, short-term rentals are allowed with a Conditional Use Permit. In other cases, no Conditional Use Permit is required. Areas governed by specific plans, overlay zones or other specially zoned areas may have different rules.

3. Where are short-term rentals prohibited?

Short-term rentals are prohibited in agricultural zones; the R1 and other single-family residential zones; the R2, RD and R3 lower-density multi-family residential zones; and the RAS3 residential accessory services zone. Areas governed by specific plans, overlay zones or other specially zoned areas may have different rules.