CITY OF SANTA MONICA
HOME-SHARING ORDINANCE
RULES AND REGULATIONS

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I. SCOPE AND INTENT

These rules and regulations ("Rules") are established pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 6.20.080. These Rules reflect the City’s interpretation and application of the Home-Sharing Ordinance (SMMC Chapter 6.20), and provide detail on how hosts and hosting platforms can comply with the requirements of the Home-Sharing Ordinance.

Failure by a host to comply with any provision of Chapter 6.20 or failure by a hosting platform to comply with its obligations under Section 6.20.050 may result in a fine, penalty, or imprisonment pursuant to Section 6.20.100. Failure by a host to comply with these Rules is a violation of Sections 6.20.020(a)(12) and 6.20.080 and may result in a fine, penalty, or imprisonment pursuant to Section 6.20.100.

II. DEFINITIONS – Definitions of certain terms relevant to the Home-Sharing Ordinance can be found in Section 6.20.010 and shall have the same meaning in these Rules. Below are additional definitions that supplement the definitions in Section 6.20.010.

A. Accessory Dwelling Unit or ADU – A dwelling unit providing complete independent living facilities for one or more persons that (1) is located on a parcel with another primary, single-unit dwelling as defined by State law; and (2) includes permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel as the single-unit dwelling’s location. See Section 9.51.020.

B. Application – The City-provided form to be used to apply for a home-sharing permit and business license.

C. Business License Number – A unique identification number provided by the City after submission of a home-sharing permit and business license application. The number may be used only by the authorized host for the valid registered dwelling unit offered for use as a home-share.

D. Citation – Any administrative citation, fine, ticket, or similar notice of violation issued by an enforcement officer relating to the condition of or activities at a dwelling unit offered for use as a home-share or vacation rental.

E. Enforcement Officer – A City Police Officer, a City Code Compliance Officer or Code Enforcement Officer, a City Building Inspector, a City Combination Building Inspector, a City Parking Enforcement Officer, a City Public Works Inspector, a City Fire Inspector, a City Office of Sustainability and the Environment Inspector, a City License Inspector, a City Animal Control Officer, a City Public Services Officer, a City Lead Public Services Officer, a City Public Services Officer Supervisor, a City Public Services Administrator, a Pier and Harbor Services Officer, a Lead Pier and Harbor Services Officer, a City Pier and Harbor Services Supervisor, or any other authorized agent or employee of the City whose duty is to assure Code compliance. See SMMC Section 1.09.020.

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1 All references herein to “Section” refer to the SMMC unless otherwise stated.
F. **Listing** – An advertisement offering a home-share or vacation rental that is posted on or otherwise disseminated through a hosting platform, other online platform, or other form of media.

G. **Transient Occupancy Tax or TOT** – The local tax imposed on transients for occupancy as set forth in SMMC Chapter 6.68. The tax is required to be collected by the host, either alone or in coordination with a hosting platform, at the time payment for occupancy of the home-share is made by or on behalf of a visitor. The collected TOT is then remitted to the City by the host or the hosting platform.

### III. Initial Home-Sharing Permit Application Process and Procedure

– A proposed host must obtain from the City both a home-sharing permit and a home-sharing business license, which are applied for together through the application.

A. **Application Requirements** – A proposed host must include the following information with his or her initial application:

1. Address of the proposed home-share;
2. Type of dwelling unit (e.g., single-family residence, condo, apartment, duplex, triplex, ADU/guest house);
3. Whether the applicant is an owner or long-term resident;
4. The name and contact information for any other eligible residents of the proposed home-share (that is, individuals for whom the proposed home-share is their primary residence) who will be serving as hosts;
5. The square footage of the proposed home-share;
6. The number of bedrooms in the proposed home-share;
7. The maximum number of visitors per night, which shall not exceed the maximum occupancy permitted in accordance with Section 6.20.020(a)(6);
8. If the proposed home-share is an ADU, the month and year on which the building permits were issued for the construction of the ADU;
9. Whether the dwelling unit is rent controlled; and
10. Identification of all hosting platforms that will be used for listings of the home-share.

B. **Supporting Documentation** – Legible scans or photographs of the documents described below must be submitted with the initial application, and thereafter as applicable, for each proposed host identified in the application.

1. **Proof of Primary Residency** – Two of the following documents that list the proposed host’s full name and the address of the home-share are required to establish that the home-share is the primary residence of the proposed host:
   
   i. Motor vehicle registration from the California DMV;
ii. California driver’s license or California state identification card;

iii. California voter’s registration card or a voter registration status document (which may be obtained online at https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/ and printed to save as a portable document formatted / "pdf" file);

iv. Income tax return with personal sensitive information other than name and address redacted;

v. Current property tax bill indicating homeowner’s exemption; or

vi. Original utility bill issued from either City of Santa Monica Water Resources (water, sewer, and trash/recycling); Southern California Gas (gas); or Southern California Edison (power). (Note: Cable television, cell phone, or internet provider bills do not qualify.)

2. Proof of Ownership or Long-Term Resident Status

i. Proof of Ownership – If the proposed host is the owner of the proposed home-share, proof of ownership in the form of a grant deed, current property tax bill, or other equivalent documentation. (Note: For proof of ownership to suffice, ownership must be held in the name of the natural person applying to serve as host. If ownership is held through a partnership, LLC, trust or other entity in which the host is a member or has an interest, then proof of long-term resident status is required. If ownership is held by a spouse or domestic partner, then a marriage certificate or an affidavit of domestic partnership (see Section 4.60.020 et seq.) is required.)

ii. Proof of Long-Term Resident Status – If the proposed host is not the owner of the proposed home-share, proof that the proposed host is a long-term resident in the form of documentation establishing both of the following:

a. Proof of Primary Residency for the Prior 12 Months – The proposed host must submit two of the documents described in paragraph III.B.1. above that (1) list the proposed host’s full name and the address of the home-share; and (2) contain a date sufficient to show that the proposed host has resided in the proposed home-share for at least 12 months prior to the submission of the application.

b. Proof That Proposed Host Will Reside in Proposed Home-Share for the Next 12 Months – Proof that the proposed host will reside in the proposed home-share for at least the 12-month period after the submission of the application can be established by either:

1) A written rental housing agreement, if the proposed host is a tenant, subtenant, or sublessee;
2) Other written documentation, if the proposed host is not a tenant, subtenant, or sublessee (e.g., if the proposed host natural person is a member of or has an interest in a partnership, LLC, or trust that is the owner of the dwelling unit); or

3) A declaration submitted on the City-provided form attached as Exhibit A and signed under the penalty of perjury affirming the proposed host intends to reside at the dwelling unit for at least the 12-month period after submission of the application, if neither a written rental housing agreement nor other written documentation is available.

3. **Proof of Insurance** – If the proposed host intends to post listings through a hosting platform, other platform, or other media outlet that does not provide insurance, the host must include proof of liability insurance to cover home-sharing with minimum limits of not less than $500,000. Airbnb is the only hosting platform that currently provides this insurance. If listing on Airbnb only, proof of insurance is not required.

C. **Initial Application Fee** – The initial application must be accompanied by a non-refundable $100 fee. Any checks or money orders should be made out to the City of Santa Monica.

D. **Certification Required** – In submitting the initial application, each proposed host is required to certify under penalty of perjury that:

1. The proposed host lives on site and will be present in the home-share throughout each visitor’s stay;

2. The proposed host understands that he or she may not book or rent to more than two groups of visitors at a time for any given date;

3. The proposed host will not post more than two listings on any hosting platform;

4. The proposed host will advertise the home-share in compliance with the Home-Share Ordinance and these Rules;

5. The proposed host will not exceed the visitor occupancy or visitor vehicle limitations provided in Section 6.20.020;

6. The proposed host has working smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers in the home-share, and will provide all visitors with information related to emergency exit routes if the dwelling unit that is the home-share is part of a multifamily building of more than one story;

7. The proposed host will collect and remit TOT, in coordination with any hosting platform if utilized, to the City of Santa Monica;
8. The proposed host will take responsibility for and actively prevent any nuisance activities that may take place as a result of home-sharing activities;

9. The proposed host will comply with all applicable laws, including noise limitations, and all health, safety, building, fire protection and rent control laws; and

10. The information provided in the application is correct and the supporting documentation submitted with the application is authentic.

E. Acknowledgement and Consent – In submitting the initial application, each proposed host will be required to consent to and authorize any hosting platform on which the home-share is listed to provide to the City the host’s listing (including the address of the listing), rental activity, and contact information. Each proposed host must also consent to receive all City notices and citations regarding his/her home-sharing permit by both email and U.S. Mail at the address used for home-sharing. In providing such consent, each host acknowledges and agrees that delivery by email and U.S. Mail at the address used for home-sharing is an acceptable method of service, notwithstanding Section 1.10.040.

F. Application Review by City Staff – Prior to approving any application, City staff shall verify, using City data sources or other publicly available information, (1) the information provided as to the proposed home-share in the application (e.g., square footage, address, type of dwelling unit, etc.) and (2) that the proposed home-share is not subject to any open or pending citations. If there is any inconsistency between the information provided in the application and City data sources or publicly available information, the City reserves the right to conduct an inspection of the proposed home-share prior to approving the application. If the proposed host believes that the proposed home-share is mistakenly identified as being subject to an open or pending citation, the proposed host may provide evidence to the Code Enforcement Division that the citation is not specific to the proposed home-share or is no longer open or pending. Any issues will be evaluated with the relevant enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of visitors and habitability of the proposed home-share. (Note: As further detailed in paragraph IX.C. below, the City may, in its sole and absolute discretion, deny the initial application if the home-share has been the subject of two or more citations in the prior fiscal year or if any such citations remain unpaid.)

G. Expiration – Unless renewed, a home-sharing permit and business license expires at midnight on the June 30th succeeding its issuance. Hosts must cease advertising the home-share on all applicable hosting platforms or other forms of media immediately upon the expiration of the home-sharing permit and business license.

IV. Renewal of Home-Sharing Permit – A home-sharing permit and business license may be renewed annually by submitting an application for renewal. As part of the renewal application, the host shall complete the following requirements:

A. Past Compliance – Each listed host for the home-share must affirm through a declaration signed under penalty of perjury that the home-share has complied with the Home-Sharing Ordinance and these Rules during the prior year. The City may also conduct its own verification based on records of violations, complaints, code enforcement activity, citations, and any other available information related to the
home-share. To the extent the home-share has been the subject of one or more citations during the term of the immediately preceding home-sharing permit, the host shall list the date of each such citation and affirm through a declaration signed under penalty of perjury that the home-share has complied with the Home-Sharing Ordinance and these Rules since the date of the last citation. (Note: As further detailed in paragraph IX.C. below, the City may, in its sole and absolute discretion, deny the renewal application if the home-share has been the subject of two or more citations in the immediately preceding term or if any such citations remain unpaid.)

B. Information Accuracy – The primary host (that is, the host submitting the renewal application on behalf of the primary and any other listed hosts) must be an individual who was listed as a host in the previous application and must affirm through a declaration signed under penalty of perjury that all information provided in the previous application remains true and accurate, or provide any changes.

C. Proof of Ownership/ Residency –

1. Previously Listed Hosts – For each host who was listed as a host in the previous application, to the extent any such host is not an owner, that host must submit proof in the form of one of the documents identified in paragraph III.B.2.ii.b. above establishing that host will continue to reside in the home-share for the next 12 months. Such proof must be provided for each non-owner host listed in the renewal application.

2. Newly Listed Proposed Hosts – If the renewal application includes any new proposed host (that is, a new proposed host who was not listed in the previous application, that proposed host must submit proof of ownership/residency as specified in Section III B. Such proof must be provided for each new proposed host listed in the renewal application.

D. Renewal of Certifications, Acknowledgment, and Consent – Each listed host will be required to certify or recertify the matters set forth in paragraph III.D above and to provide or renew the acknowledgement and consent set forth in Section III.E above.

E. Renewal Application Fee – The renewal application must be accompanied by a non-refundable $50 fee. Any checks or money orders should be made out to the City of Santa Monica.

V. Special Situations

A. Home-sharing of ADUs – Whether the host must reside in the ADU (as opposed to the main house) offered for home-sharing depends on when the ADU was constructed pursuant to a building permit. Regardless of when the ADU was constructed, the advertisement requirements in Section 6.21.022 apply to the home-share of an ADU.

1. Pre-March 31, 2017 ADUs

   i. If a host intends to home-share at an ADU for which a building permit was issued before March 31, 2017, the host may reside (i.e., live on
site) in either the main home on the property where the ADU is located or in the ADU itself.

ii. Any listing for a home-share of an ADU for which a building permit was issued before March 31, 2017 must state that the host lives on site in either, as applicable, the main house or the ADU and will be present throughout the visitor’s stay.

2. Post-March 31, 2017 ADUs

   i. If a host intends to home-share at an ADU for which a building permit was issued on or after March 31, 2017, the ADU must be the host’s primary residence. In other words, the host may not reside (i.e., live on site) in the main house and use the ADU for home-sharing. (Similarly, the host may not reside in the ADU and use the main house for home-sharing.)

   ii. Because a host is prohibited from being the host for more than one home-share, a host who home-shares a post-March 31, 2017 ADU may not also home-share the main house. (Similarly, a host who home-shares the main house may not also home-share the ADU.)

   iii. Any listing for a home-share of an ADU for which a building permit was issued on or after March 31, 2017 must state that the host lives on site in the ADU and will be present in the ADU throughout the visitor’s stay.

3. Advertisement and Group Restrictions Apply – Regardless of whether the ADU was constructed pursuant to a building permit issued before or after March 31, 2017, a host is limited to (i) posting no more than two listings on each hosting platform or other media outlet for the home-share (whether the main house or the ADU) and (ii) booking no more than two groups of visitors for any given date for the home-share (whether the main house or the ADU).

B. Lease Agreements, Homeowners Association Bylaws, and Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions (CC&Rs) – Proposed hosts who are renters or whose dwelling units are subject to homeowners association bylaws or CC&Rs are encouraged to review their respective lease agreements or homeowners association bylaws or CC&Rs to determine whether there are any restrictions on home-sharing. The City’s authorization of home-sharing in the Home-Sharing Ordinance does not displace any restrictions on home-sharing in lease agreements, homeowners association bylaws, or CC&Rs.

C. Dwelling Units Subject to Rent Control – If the proposed home-share is a rent-controlled unit, any tenant of that rent-controlled unit who is a proposed host may not receive monthly revenue from home-sharing in the rent-controlled unit that exceeds the monthly rent payment for the rent-controlled unit. See Santa Monica Charter, Art. XVIII, § 1809.
VI. Duty to Keep Information Up-to-date

A. **Material Changes in Application** – Within 30 days of any material changes to the information submitted with either an initial or renewal application, the host must submit an amended application on a form provided by the City. The amended application must identify the changes and the reason for the changes (e.g., a proposed host has moved or changed phone numbers).

B. **Change in Listings** – A host must provide to the Code Enforcement Division at HomeSharingLicense@SMGOV.NET the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) (i.e., the website address) for any and all listings within 10 days after the home-sharing permit application has been approved. In addition, a host must provide the Code Enforcement Division at HomeSharingLicense@SMGOV.NET with any new or updated URLs within 10 days after the URL for the listing is changed or if a new listing is subsequently added.

VII. Host Advertising Restrictions – Refer to Section 6.21.022 for the information that a host is required to include in any listing. As stated in Section 6.21.022(b), a host is limited to posting no more than two listings for the home-share on each hosting platform or other media outlet and no more than two listings may be booked for any given date.

VIII. Prohibitions – The following activities are prohibited and may result in a citation or other enforcement action pursuant to Section 6.20.100:

A. **Non-Compliance with Home-Sharing Ordinance, Including Advertising Restrictions** – No host shall undertake, maintain, authorize, aid, facilitate or advertise home-sharing in a manner that does not comply with the Home-Sharing Ordinance and these Rules. In particular, it is a violation of the Home-Sharing Ordinance to advertise a home-share without including the following information:

   1. The business license number issued by the City;
   2. That the host lives on site and will be present throughout the visitor’s stay;
   3. The permitted occupancy;
   4. The permitted number of visitor vehicles; and
   5. That the home-share may not be booked or rented by more than two groups of visitors for any given date.

B. **Hosting More Than One Home-Share** – A host may not be the host for more than one home-share within the City.

C. **Posting More Than Two Listings at a Time** - A host may not post more than two listings for the home-share on each hosting platform or other media outlet.

D. **Hosting More Than Two Bookings at a Time** – A host may not book or rent to more than two groups of visitors for any given date. A group of visitors can be a person traveling individually or any set of visitors, whether related to each other or
not, who, at or around the same time, book or rent the home-share as a group for the same date or dates.

E. **Exceeding the Occupancy Limits** – The occupancy of the home-share (including the host, all other eligible residents, and all visitors) may not exceed the lesser of (1) 10 persons; (2) one person per 200 square feet of the dwelling unit; or (3) two persons (excluding minor children) per bedroom.

F. **Exceeding the Visitor Vehicle Limits** – Visitors to home-shares are limited to, whichever is less, (1) no more than one vehicle per bedroom rented as part of the home-share or (2) if the home-share is located in a preferential parking zone, no more than two vehicles that shall be required to use the visitor permits available under SMMC Chapter 3.08.

G. **Operating a Home-Share Without a Valid Home-Sharing Permit and Business License** – A host may not operate a home-share without obtaining and renewing a home-sharing permit and business license. Nor may a host operate a home-share while his/her home-sharing permit and business license has been suspended or revoked.

H. **Providing Materially False Statements or Omissions to the City** – A host may not make a materially false, misleading, or fraudulent statement of fact or omission to the City in any home-sharing application or in connection with any enforcement action by the City relating to home-sharing.

I. **Failing to Amend Application** – A host must amend his or her home-sharing application if there are any material changes to the information submitted with the application.

J. **Renting a Home-Share Without Living On-Site** – A host may not rent a home-share for exclusive transient use. Any such rental is considered a vacation rental and is prohibited by the Home-Sharing Ordinance. To live on site, the host must maintain a physical presence in the dwelling unit offered for home-sharing, except in the case of a pre-March 2017 ADU for which a host must live on site in either the main home or the ADU. See paragraph V.A. above.

K. **Offering Home-Share in Uninhabitable Space** – A home-share may only be offered in a residence that includes a bedroom, i.e., a space intended for human habitation. For example, a host may not rent a space in an accessory structure that is a storage shed or garage as a home-share. Nor may a host reside in such an accessory structure while operating the residence to which the structure is an accessory as a home-share.

L. **Failing to Ensure That Basic Health and Safety Features Are Provided** – A host may not rent a home-share without ensuring that basic health and safety features are provided, including fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors. A host must also provide all visitors with information related to emergency exit routes if the home-share is part of a multifamily building of more than one story.

M. **Failing to Comply with Noise Limitations and Other Laws** – A host is required to ensure that a home-share complies with all applicable laws, including the noise
limitations set forth in SMMC Chapter 4.12, and all health, safety, building, fire protection, and rent control laws.

N. **Failing to Take Responsibility for and Actively Prevent Nuisance Activities** – A host must take responsibility for and actively prevent any nuisance activities that may take place as a result of home-sharing activities.

O. **Failing to Collect and Remit TOT** – A host is required to collect and remit TOT, in coordination with any hosting platform if utilized, and comply with all City TOT requirements as set forth in SMMC Chapter 6.68.

P. **Failing to Maintain Liability Insurance** – A host is required to maintain liability insurance to cover home-sharing with minimum limits of not less than $500,000 or conduct each home-sharing transaction through a hosting platform that provides equal or greater coverage. (Note: Airbnb is the only hosting platform that presently offers equal or greater coverage.)

**IX. Suspension, Revocation, or Denial of Home-Sharing Permit and Business License** – Multiple citations for violations of the Home-Sharing Ordinance, or other applicable provisions of California law or the Santa Monica Municipal Code, will result in the suspension or revocation of a home-sharing permit and business license and may result in denial of a renewal application, as further specified below.

A. **Suspension** – If a home-share has been the subject of two citations that have become final during the term of the host’s home-sharing permit/business license, the home-sharing permit/business license shall be suspended for 30 days or as long as at least one citation is open, whichever is longer. For these purposes, if a host contests a citation pursuant to SMMC Chapter 1.09, the citation will become final only if the Hearing Officer determines that the citation should be upheld. The suspension shall become effective 10 days after the mailing of a Notice of Intent to Suspend to the host, unless the host appeals the decision in accordance with SMMC Chapter 6.16.

B. **Revocation** – If a home-share has been the subject of three or more citations that have become final during the term of the host’s home-sharing permit/business license, the home-sharing permit/business license shall be revoked. For these purposes, if a host contests a citation pursuant to SMMC Chapter 1.09, the citation will become final only if the Hearing Officer determines that the citation should be upheld. The revocation shall become effective 10 days after the mailing of a Notice of Intent to Revoke to the host, unless the host appeals the decision in accordance with SMMC Chapter 6.16.

C. **Denial** – If a proposed host submitting an initial application has received two or more citations that have become final for violations of the Home-Sharing Ordinance or any such citation that remains unpaid within the prior fiscal year (i.e., July 1-June 30), the City may, in its sole and absolute discretion, deny the initial application. If a host has received two or more citations that have become final for violations of the Home-Sharing Ordinance during the term of the immediately preceding home-sharing permit/business license or any such citation that remains unpaid, the City may, in its sole and absolute discretion, deny the renewal application. For these purposes, if a proposed host or host contests a citation pursuant to SMMC Chapter 1.09, the
citation will become final only if the Hearing Officer determines that the citation should be upheld. If the City denies either the initial application or the renewal application for these reasons, the City shall notify the host in writing.

D. **Right to Appeal** – If a home-sharing permit and home-sharing business license has been suspended, revoked, or denied, the host shall have the right to appeal from this decision in accordance with SMMC Chapter 6.16.

X. **Hosting Platform Responsibilities** – The responsibilities of any hosting platform are identified in Section 6.20.050.
Declaration Affirming Intent to Reside in Dwelling Unit

I, ___________________________________________________ [insert name], declare and state as follows:

1. I presently reside at ________________________________________________ [insert address] in Santa Monica, California (the “Dwelling Unit”).

2. The Dwelling Unit is my primary residence.

3. On _____________________________________ [insert date], I am submitting an application for a home-sharing permit and business license (the “Application”).

4. I do not have either a written rental housing agreement or other written documentation establishing that I will reside at the Dwelling Unit for at least the 12-month period after the date of my Application.

5. I intend to reside at the Dwelling Unit as my primary residence for at least the 12-month period after the date of my Application.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated:  ______________________________

Signature: ____________________________