



## THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contacts:**

Ilana Maier (CM Williams): [imaier@council.nyc.gov](mailto:imaier@council.nyc.gov) // (212) 788-6859  
Stephanie Buhle (CM Rosenthal): [sbuhle@council.nyc.gov](mailto:sbuhle@council.nyc.gov) // (646) 647-4395

### **Council Members Williams and Rosenthal Respond to the Daily Show Airbnb Discussion**

"Hearing last night's discussion between Trevor Noah and Mayor Bill de Blasio on *The Daily Show* about Airbnb reminds us of Airbnb's continual attempt at misrepresenting who they are and what their company is doing to our city.

"Airbnb's business model, which encourages anyone to post an apartment as an illegal hotel rental, is particularly challenging. When tenants use their residence for commercial purposes, they are breaking their lease and giving their landlord grounds for eviction. Airbnb's corporation is valued at over \$25 billion, and their business model allows them to profit from illegal rentals and incur none of the risk.

**"Airbnb continues to willfully ignore their corporate responsibility to exclude illegal hotel operators from their hosting list.** Airbnb's multimillion dollar PR team tries to distract the public from their irresponsibility by talking about the potential for tax revenue. We have seen this ruse before in cities who have since regretted falling into the tax trap-- very few residents participate while Airbnb continues to reap profits. Airbnb's deceptive marketing gives illegal activity the appearance of legitimacy, takes affordable housing off of the market, and puts tenants at risk of eviction. We must be careful not to adopt the false narrative put out by Airbnb; they are not proposing a real partnership.

"We know the Mayor cares deeply for tenants and affordable housing in New York City, and we look forward to continuing our working together to educate New Yorkers about the dangers of using Airbnb," said **Council Members Jumaane D. Williams and Helen Rosenthal**.

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