

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
573 East Fordham Road  
(Entrance on Hoffman Street)  
Bronx, NY 10458  
(718) 842-8100  
FAX: (347) 597-8570

**CITY HALL OFFICE**  
250 Broadway, Suite 1759  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 788-6966  
FAX: (212) 788-8977



THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**RITCHIE TORRES**

COUNCIL MEMBER, 15<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, BRONX

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GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
HOUSING & BUILDINGS  
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DEPUTY LEADER OF  
THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

March 2, 2017

Mr. Brian Chesky  
CEO & Co-Founder  
Airbnb Inc.  
888 Brannan Street, Fourth Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Chesky:

We are deeply concerned about the findings of a report released today, which reveals yet another disturbing example of the racial disparity already rampant across Airbnb's online platform and the neighborhoods suffering from its presence.

In the report, by Inside Airbnb's Murray Cox, data from Airbnb's own website shows that across New York City's 72 predominantly black neighborhoods, Airbnb hosts are five times more likely to be white. In these neighborhoods, the Airbnb host population is 74% white, though only 13.9% of the neighborhoods' residents are white. Representing a 530% economic disparity, 73.7% of the income earned across these 72 predominantly black neighborhoods went to white hosts.

These are just the latest outrageous realizations about Airbnb's complete lack of commitment to racial equity. Last year, the Harvard Business School released a report showing that black Airbnb users are 16% less likely to be able to rent a room on Airbnb than users with white-sounding names. Even after such shocking findings, the company, true to form, took no meaningful action to address the problem.

We are calling on Airbnb to take a hard look at the devastation it is causing in New York City's predominantly black neighborhoods. We are calling on the company to engage in substantive restructuring and repair—beyond the superficial "changes" the company claims to have made in the past.

On top of past revelations that the majority of Airbnb's New York City listings break the law and that black users are being rejected from their site, today's report shows us another deeply troubling piece of this \$30 billion company's sickening disregard for the wonderfully diverse people and communities of New York City.

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Sincerely,

New York City Council Member Ritchie Torres  
New York City Council Member Rosie Mendez  
New York City Council Member I. Daneek Miller  
New York City Council Member Andy King  
New York City Council Member Jumaane Williams  
New York City Council Member Margaret Chin  
New York City Council Member Carlos Menchaca  
New York City Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez  
New York City Council Member Mathieu Eugene  
New York City Council Member Deborah Rose  
New York City Council Member Rafael Salamanca  
New York City Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland