

Hildebrandt, Tina

From: Johanna Bjarnadottir s. 22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 5:55 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Airbnb and short terms rentals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear council members,

Vancouver is like so many cities around the world, were people have a hard time finding affordable housing.

This is what IKEA did for there staff in Iceland.

Maybe the city of Vancouver should encourage companies that are here to do what IKEA did for the staff in Iceland. So there staff has a long term rental at a reasonable cost. Its a win win.

Sincerely,
Johanna Bjarnadottir

Ikea builds housing for Icelandic staff



By News from Elsewhere.....as found by BBC Monitoring

• 10 April 2017





Image copyright AFP Image caption The furniture retailer is worried that staff are being priced out of the Icelandic property market

Swedish furniture and lifestyle chain Ikea is building an apartment block in the Icelandic capital Reykjavik in order to give its employees somewhere affordable to live.

The 36 flats will be available to staff next summer, the **Reykjavik Grapevine website** reports, saying that rents in the city have "skyrocketed" in recent years. Thorinn Ivarsson, the company's CEO in Iceland, said the development is intended to provide safe housing for its staff at a reasonable price, with the lowest rent expected to be from 100,000 krona (\$889; £716) per month.

"That's a lot less than people pay for a dump here and there in town," Ivarsson told

Iceland's **Morganbladid** newspaper, going on to say that housing security would result in happy and productive staff. The average rental price for a one bedroom flat in Reykjavik's city centre is 175,000 krona (\$1,555; £1,254).

The cost of buying or renting a home has become a hot topic in Reykjavik, where the recent tourist boom has pushed prices up **by some 14% in 2016**, pricing many locals out of the market. Ikea staff will be given priority in renting the new housing, but it may also be offered to students and workers at a new supermarket being built in the area.