January 15, 2018

Mr. David Clark, Chief of Staff
Department of Management Services
4050 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Mr. Clark:

This letter is to instruct the Department of Management Services to immediately modify the protocol for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by employees and contractors of the State of Florida in response to policies undertaken by Airbnb against the Israeli people.

Airbnb has engaged in actions that I believe commercially discriminate against Israel, and that violate the laws of the State of Florida. These actions are regrettable and require a response by this Administration. We cannot allow taxpayer dollars to be spent supporting an organization with anti-Israeli policies.

Effective immediately, state workers are prohibited from being reimbursed for expenses incurred through the services of Airbnb while on official state business, and all contracts let by the state from this date forward shall prohibit such expenses. I further instruct you to review all current contracts between vendors and the State of Florida to determine which contracts allow for reimbursement of expenses and, where allowed by the terms of the contract, immediately notify those contractors of this change in policy.

The State Board of Administration is currently reviewing Airbnb’s policies to determine if it should be placed on the scrutinized companies list. I reserve the authority to impose further restrictions against Airbnb and revoke any agreements between the State and Airbnb, within my authority as Governor of the State of Florida and by the laws of this state, should Airbnb continue its policy of commercial discrimination against Israel.

Florida is a pro-Israel state and will not look favorably on companies that target Israel for disfavored treatment. My hope is that I can revisit this issue in a more positive way once Airbnb rescinds its misguided policy.

Sincerely,

Ron DeSantis
Governor