

Short Term Rental hearing notes

Like everyone who has pushed for some regulation on this issue, I am upset about the lack of affordable housing for people who might, for example, serve in village government or on the fire department, not to mention just work locally, live here, raise children, use enough water to keep water treatment operational. I wonder how much the new rules would help. They do appear to incentivize long- or longer-term rentals, which is some degree of help, though in circumstances in which those rentals would be for no more than nine months, that help would be limited.

I also, and on the other hand, am concerned how much distress they may cause to owners who have invested lots of planning, time and money in heretofore unregulated circumstances.

I think that prospective owners should be actively discouraged from supposing they can buy houses just to turn them into short-term rentals.

I understand that the plan is for permitting to be based on the results of a lottery. While that may seem fair going forward, I'm not sure it is at the outset: I heard a suggestion that prior ownership of a number of years should be required, and think that is worth consideration. And the thought that the Inns, who have so much economic power and have acted to limit independent pursuits, and have bought houses only to let them stand empty at length, would have the same chance to be permitted as others rather sticks in my craw.

I appreciate that a generous definition of what constitutes "hosting"—such that it can include a long-term rental that is in the same building—creates some flexibility and greater possibility.

Lastly, it seems obvious that any STR must meet code and zoning requirements.

I know that this has been a slow and difficult project, long in coming. I thank you for your diligence, and hope that whatever kinks remain can be ironed out, hardship limited, and that we end up with more regular neighbors.