

December 7, 2023

Village of Aurora Trustees

c/o Ann Balloni [villageclerk@auroranewyork.us](mailto:villageclerk@auroranewyork.us)

Re: Proposed Short Term Rental Ordinance

Dear Honorable Board Members,

I understand you will be considering a proposed ordinance that limits the operation of short-term rentals in the Village of Aurora. I support the intent as stated in the proposal.

However, I urge you to reject the proposed Short Term Rental law as it is currently written. The Village has an intentional, well thought out Strategic Plan; the random lottery for licenses will take away your ability as Village leaders to shape the character of Aurora.

And, this ordinance will destroy existing small businesses, hurting local small business owners who have invested in Aurora, and will jeopardize future tourism, prospective College students, and other new visitors to Aurora.

The economic impact of affordable lodging options in Aurora cannot be overstated – attracting new College students, bringing parents and alumni back to the College, bringing in wedding guests, and attracting other tourists who will return to the Village – all contribute to a viable economic base.

At the same time, the people who live in Aurora make it the beloved place that it is. It is extremely important to provide year round housing, and a quiet, livable environment so people can actually live and work in the Village. It's a very real and difficult challenge in an area with seasonal demand, and wonderful old houses, many of which need considerable investment and ongoing maintenance. I don't envy your challenge as Village leaders to support housing as well as local businesses that bring people (and economic impact) into the community.

Local business owners like Jacci and Virgil Farlow of Aurora Main Stay deserve our support as diligent, responsible business owners. As a member of the Wells College Alumnae Association, then Board of Trustees, I've visited Aurora multiple times a year since 1992. I've stayed at Aurora Main Stays properties since the business started, and I've watched Jacci and Virgil work incredibly hard to create welcoming and affordable lodging for people visiting Aurora. They have invested their time, effort and their savings to build up a highly reputable business that provides affordable, comfortable lodging, and they are wonderfully attentive hosts.

Please find a middle ground – a way to maintain housing and a livable environment for people to live in Aurora year round, and for Aurora Main Stays and other businesses to continue to thrive and provide an important service. I absolutely agree with a limit on short term rental properties. But a random lottery provides no accountability – let's address housing, parking, trash and noise directly while supporting reputable business owners.

Please reconsider the proposed law. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Carrie Bolton