

December 20, 2023

To: Village of Aurora Board of Trustees

From: John Dentes
425 Main Street
Aurora, NY 13026

Re: Draft Proposed Local Law #5 of 2023 to Regulate Short-Term Rentals

This is to request and to strongly urge you, our village Board of Trustees, to delay taking action on proposed Local Law #5 of 2023. Delay your action until such time as both resident and non-resident property owners have had adequate time to provide their considered responses.

This proposed law is punitive, vindictive, and arbitrary. It is a direct response to the unintended consequences of 30 plus years of village trustee inaction. Inaction related to the commercialization of large village properties. In other words, village trustees have been unwilling or unable to take on "Big Brother" and to address the commercialization of the village. The increase in the number of short term rentals and this proposed law to control them are the direct consequence of the 30 years of inaction. I urge you to take a few months, a year, or whatever time it takes to thoroughly assess the unintended consequences of this new law.

This ill-conceived proposed law and its purported benefits are supposedly M.A.G.A., "Make Aurora Great Again." However, it will not return Aurora to the former village. Instead, it will create hardships. I would implore you, our village trustees, to lead this village not by looking backwards through a rearview mirror but by looking forward, through the windshield, with an occasional glance back. It is a wonderful way to avoid accidents and additional unintended consequences.

"You Imagined it." That's what the sign says as you leave town. For some the meaning is M.A.G.A. or "I imagine a once idyllic, once family friendly, once thriving village firmly rooted in the 1950's." For me, and I hope for you our trustees, it means, "I imagine a village with beautiful well-kept homes, a thriving college, a robust travel and tourism industry, and unlimited possibilities." It is your job to develop and fulfill the unlimited possibilities. It is your job to look forward, not backwards. To act and to lead this village fairly and not with a punitive law that seeks to address past inaction.

Because I do not like to leave without making positive suggestions, how about the following? Consider supporting the election of, and or appointment to village boards, of individuals who are new to the village. Residents under the age of 30 and with less than 20 years of residency would be a great start! How about regularly meeting with the two other major stakeholders in the village? Three brains are better than one and our issues are not unique. How about giving serious consideration to increasing the footprint of the village? The long-term positive impacts of a larger village would be amazing and so forward looking.

Thank you for listening and please defer action and continue to receive public comment on this proposed law.