

I am responding to various residents opining and commenting that with short term rentals there is a lack of volunteers for the Fire Department. This same opinion was reported in the Citizen as if it were true. However, as a matter of fact, the Fire Department services not only Aurora but also encompasses the surrounding area. Thus, the Fire Department does not depend just on Aurora residents but on the entire Fire District. So, a decline in volunteering cannot just be attributed to short term rentals in Aurora or its full-time residents but is a District problem. Additionally, the much desired full-time residents that have recently purchased homes in Aurora have not joined the Fire Department. Therefore, to put the blame of a lack of new members in the Fire Department on short term rentals is not supportable. Contributing to the volunteer situation in the Fire Department is that volunteering all over America has declined... not just in Aurora. As far as the argument that there is a lack of residents to volunteer on Village Boards, many of us have offered to serve and have never been given the opportunity.

Also, it seems hypocritical to blame the lack of volunteerism on short-term rentals and not vacation home owners. There are many homes in the village that are only used a few weeks of the year as a vacation home leaving the homes empty the rest of the year. Why is only using a home for a few weeks a year as a vacation home preferable to people renting their empty homes when they are not vacationing in them, such as the McGuire family? When John and I pass, we would like our home to be used by our children as a vacation home and rented the rest of the year to defray the costs of taxes and upkeep as do the McGuire family.

Furthermore, there is no guarantee that when a home is sold that it will be used as a permanent residence but may be used instead as a vacation home. Limiting how a property can be used is punitive and will affect the property values in Aurora.

*Marie Denton, Resident
425 Main Street
Aurora, New York*