

From: cthoburn@rochester.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 4:19 PM
To: clerk
Subject: Comment for 5/9/24 Public Hearing

To Village Board of Trustees, Aurora, NY

I urge the Village Board to pass legislation immediately that will regulate existing short-term rental operations and halt the unchecked proliferation of STRs in Aurora. With the anticipated closure of Wells College, we must not allow our limited remaining residential housing stock to be swallowed up by absentee STR profiteers.

Aurora is a beautiful place to live. The recent Comprehensive Plan notes that out of 255 current residents, 105 villagers choose to live here while working elsewhere. Aurora offers an attractive, supportive home base for commuters, the self-employed, and individuals who work from home. We need to protect our housing stock to encourage and allow more such individuals to join our residential community.

STRs do not benefit the entire community; instead, they exploit it. STRs market the 'village experience' as they destroy it, creating near-empty houses solely occupied by occasional transients and deprived of their intended and necessary function as 'real' homes.

The greater good of Aurora far outweighs the individual enrichment of the STR investment landlords, nearly all of whom live outside the village. The current proposed law gives considerable support and protection to established STR businesses, but it will also serve to preserve our residential housing stock for the future of the community.

I taught at Wells longer than anyone in the history of the college, but I have lived in the village even longer. Aurora has been and will always be more than the college, and the Village Board of Trustees must act now to ensure its future as a residential community.

Sincerely,
Crawford Thoburn

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