SUBMISSION – R.P.SINGH

Item 5 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated April 5, 2022 regarding Regulating Short-Term Rentals

To City Council and Executive Planning Committee as well as to Whomever else it May Concern,

It has come to my attention that there are discussions underway whose outcome may require short term rental property owners (aka "hosts") to implement a system of notification to let immediate neighbours know about all upcoming short term rentals (aka "reservations").

While as a host I can recognise why immediate neighbours may wish access to this information, the set of possible reasons includes some that raise security concerns. Part of a host's responsibility is contributing to a short term rental tenant's (aka "guest") security and safety. The implications for a guest that their reservation details are being shared with anywhere from 2 to 20 households occupied by complete strangers with no accountability to the guest, are nothing short of terrifying. If even just one of those households harbours an occupant (permanent or transitory) with ill intentions, the proposed notification system has just made the job of scouting / casing the guest as a victim much much easier, thus presenting a more tempting target. If any one of those households should fail to respect the information's confidentiality, we face the possibility of a scenario where a guest's reservation information is in the public domain, making that guest an even easier target.

Let us not move towards enacting regulations that make it easier for criminals to commit crimes. Let us not enact regulations that reduce a guest's safety.