To Winnipeg City Council,

I am writing on behalf of support for short term rentals in the city of Winnipeg. I agree a certain amount of regulations could improve the operations of STR (short term rentals) in the city however I don't think heavy regulations or the outright banning of them is needed or appropriate. As I understand, Winnipeg has a higher vacancy rate then many large cities, which shows we don't have a major lack of housing issues being caused by STR. I also understand that STR make up a very tiny percent of the housing in Winnipeg.

STR owners take far better care of the properties they rent out then many other types of investors, land lords as well as even some home owners. Furthermore, STR need to be kept exceptionally clean and maintained, which is good for the neighbourhoods they are in as well as the city itself. They produce less garbage then most homes. They often don't use as many parking spaces on the street. They attract tourist to our city that spend money at local restaurants, stores and attractions.

STR not only promote our city & province to tourists, they are also very beneficial to people within our own province. Many residents from up north frequently need a place to stay in the city for many reasons, including health care. Additionally, they produce jobs for maid service, landscapers, property management firms, photographers, home staggers, just to name a few.

Most STR owners heavily screen potential guests to avoid any issues and in my personal experience, incidences at STR in Winnipeg are not a common problem. Despite rumours, STR are no more likely to have issues arise then any other regular residential house or long term rental in the city.

I use to travel to Toronto very frequently and could always find a nice, affordable STR to stay in. We like staying in STR as opposed to hotels as having a kitchen saved us money as we would eat our breakfast in the home. We also liked feeling as though we were a "part of the community" that we were staying in. Unfortunately Toronto has decreased the number of STR in their city and as a result we have trouble booking accommodations and don't travel their as frequently.

Limiting STR in cities like Toronto makes scenes as they have a huge housing supply shortage. However, Winnipeg is no Toronto and we don't have such issues. Our housing prices are still affordable, despite the cost of homes in some areas of the country.

Jayna Bettof
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