Regulating Short Term Rentals

Recently a delegate made a statement at a council meeting about the regulations of short-term rentals in the cities of Regina and Calgary. The statement that was made is false, and the delegate did not provide any evidence to support his statement. The delegate stated something to the effect of 'officials in cities like Calgary and Regina regret not limiting short-term rentals to primary residences only'.

I have been in contact with councillors from several cities across Canada, Calgary and Regina included, and they have not indicated to me that they regret not limiting to primary residences only. In fact, the exact opposite has been stated, and that the councillors I have spoken to have said that the regulations put in place have proven to be working and are effective. Some of the policies include limiting the amount of people in a dwelling (depending on the size), having safety and security equipment, licensing, inspections, and criminal background checks for hosts. In addition to the regulations, there are hefty fines associated with non-compliance, and disturbances from guests.

I will be providing more written statements soon from other cities that have implemented such policies, and all have been successful regulating without having to go down the same route as the Greater Toronto Area.

Cities such as Regina have found middle ground with their stakeholders, and they did so without having to appease the hotel association. Regina, amongst other cities, have effectively found a way to regulate, licence, and collect taxes, without limiting to primary residences. I emailed Regina city council and received a response within 24 hours, which was on 09 June 2022. In short, Regina City states that their program is a success as **"compliance rates are high, and complaints are low"**. The Regina City council emailed me a response, and the response was cc'd to all city councillors of Regina, the mayor included. I will not include the Regina council person's name in this submission, but I have already emailed every single city of Winnipeg city councillor privately for the purposes of follow up on their successful short-term rental by-law program. It should be noted that the city of Regina will be filing a report this July regarding the program.

The response is as follows:

City council approved *The Short-Term Accommodation Bylaw,* which governs all short term rentals less than 30 days, in October 2020. The regulations became effective on May 1, 2021. Our branch will be presenting a report to an Executive Committee meeting and Council meeting in July 2022 to provide an update on the first year of the program. The full reports are available the Friday before the meeting date at https://www.regina.ca/

Overall, the program has been successful in meeting the program objectives. Compliance has been obtained through issuance of licences and removal of unlicensed properties from the various hosting platforms. Although permitted, we have only seen a few multi-unit properties where more than one unit was licensed for short term accommodations.

Few complaints related to short term accommodations have been received by City departments and the Regina Police Service.

Since compliance rates are high and complaints are low, administration is not recommending any changes to *The Short-Term Accommodation Bylaw.*

Thank you again for your interest in this matter

Respectfully,

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