From: Jude Sanson
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 10:58 AM
To: CLK-CityClerks <CityClerks@winnipeg.ca>
Subject: Protect short-term rentals in Winnipeg

Hi,

I am writing to voice my concern and opposition to regulations, which would impact my ability to Host. One of the options being discussed is a ban on short term rentals in secondary dwellings in residential zoned neighbourhoods. If passed, this regulation would limit economic growth in Winnipeg and harm those who rely on the income earned from their rental to make ends meet.

The other possible regulatory change that would be very damaging to my ability to host would be a night cap that limits hosting to 150 nights/year. To cover the mortgage and expenses on my rental property I need to be able to rent it out all year long. Limiting it to 150 nights a year would not only destroy any income I can make from my rental but also make it much harder for families visiting Winnipeg to find short term rental accommodation in residential neighbourhoods.

Hosting in my residential neighbourhood of River Heights doesn't just benefit my family it also benefits the wider community. Most of my guests are people who used to live in Winnipeg who are coming back to visit family who still live in and around River Heights. My guests love the fact that they can stay in the neighbourhood and frequent local businesses like the Restaurants on Corydon Ave and Academy Road.

Limiting hosting of secondary residences to areas zoned as multifamily or commercial does not make any sense. It is my understanding that the Short Term Rentals in downtown Winnipeg's Condominium/high rise buildings have been a source of constant complaints from those people who live permanently in those buildings and find that they have no neighbours and are subjected to parties and loud Short Term Rental Guests.
Residential neighbourhood Short Term rentals on the other hand have had very little negative feedback from the community.
I make it a priority to know my neighbours around our residentially zoned rental property. I carefully vet my guests and I don't allow 1, 2 or 3 night stays so that I can focus on families and longer term stays.
If the Executive Policy Committee is going to restrict where Short Term Rentals can be operated then they should limit them in Multifamily and condominium buildings and NOT in residential zoned communities where they benefit the community and are less likely to cause problems with neighbours.

In October 2022 we were fortunate enough to have a Ukrainian extended family covering four generations stay at our Short Term Rental house for 10 nights. The primary guest described that her Grandmother had to flee where she was living in Ukraine because of the war with Russia and that as an extended family they had decided that they wanted to move to Canada.
They entered Canada through the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) program and chose Winnipeg, Manitoba as their new home/community. The extended family group ranged in age from 1 to 81 and totaled 6 people. My house gave them somewhere safe, comfortable and affordable to stay while they arranged longer term / permanent housing. Staying in hotels for this length of time was prohibitively expensive, uncomfortable, would have required multiple rooms and would not have afforded them a kitchen to cook their own meals. This is a perfect example of the positive benefits that Short Term Rentals have for our community and those joining our community.

My wife and I have been short term rental (STR) hosts in Winnipeg since 2017. We rent out our second home in the neighbourhood of River Heights. It is rented year round and we focus on longer stays. Typically with a minimum of one week. Many of our guests

stays are longer than this. We have not allowed one, two or three night stays in many years.
Our primary dwelling is also in River Heights. We love this neighbourhood and we are very careful that our second house and its guests don't detract from the neighbourhood or the community. I am always very conscious of my neighbours and my guests are always chosen with them in mind. We talk to our neighbours about the house and our guests and they know that if there are ever any issues they can call or email me.
They also see me regularly at the property as I do all of the yard maintenance year round. Pre-pandemic I used to meet guests at the house to check them in personally.
We go to great lengths to get to know prospective guests and we don't rent to guests that we feel would not be a good fit for the house. We have never had issues with people partying at the house because we are careful of who we rent to and we do not
allow bookings for short stays such as weekends or long weekends.
I would describe our guests as typically being ex-Winnipegers who used to live in or around River Heights or who still have family and friends that live in and around River Heights. Our guests have commented that they would not come as often or stay as long
if the only option was Hotels or staying with friends and family.
Short term rentals are also very important for people who are experiencing difficult times in their and their families lives. We have had family members from all over Manitoba come to stay together in the house for funerals and memorial services.
Short term rentals also enable people who are caring for loved ones in end of life situations to spend extended lengths of time living in Winnipeg in comfort and safety.
I am also aware of situations where people who are seeking medical treatment in Winnipeg are able to increase their comfort and quality of life by staying in short term Rentals.

By staying longer and within the community our guests spend more money in local businesses than if they were only here for a short time staying in hotels or with friends and family.

Capping the number of nights that are available for rent during the year is also very problematic and doesn't make any sense to me. My guests want to visit Winnipeg and their friends and family year round so that they can experience everything that Winnipeg
has to offer. From summer restaurant patios and festivals to winter skating on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. I have some guests that return regularly to attend the Festival du Voyageur. Capping nights would negatively effect Winnipeg's economy, Winnipeg tourism and me personally.
I am constantly recommending local businesses to my guests. I always provide them with an updated list of neighbourhood restaurants that are either within walking distance or a short drive away. I have had a lot of positive feedback from guests about the
wonderful restaurants in River Heights. I also always provide Tourism Manitoba pamphlets and info regarding all the best places to visit and enjoy in Winnipeg. People love coming back to Winnipeg and staying in houses that are in the neighbourhoods
they grew up in and enjoying time with their friends and family.
The income generated from short term renting out our second home is very important to my family and I and is used to help pay our bills, maintain the home and save for my children's education. If the regulations were to be implemented as suggested and we
were not able to short term rent, we would have to rent out the house with a 30 day minimum stay. This would seriously impact the amount of money we make from this
property and would also negatively impact Winnipeg's economy.
Hosting a short term rental home in River Heights has benefited me and our community. Personally I have found it amazing to meet and get to know so many interesting people who grew up here in Winnipeg and now return to see family and friends from all over North America. Our short term rental has benefited River Heights by giving people the opportunity to stay in the neighbourhood that they grew up in. It's a wonderful thing for
people to be able to walk to their families homes through our beautiful tree lined streets or have friends and family back to their vacation home to have dinner or visit with them.
It's really about creating a space for people to be able to experience being back together with friends and family

and we feel privileged to be a part of that.

In conclusion it very much saddens and concerns me to think that the Winnipeg City Council and Mayor Scott Gillingham may introduce regulations that limit or bans short
term rentals in residential secondary homes in such a way that we will no longer be able to rent our second house to many of the families that rely on our house as a way to spend time
with their friends and families in River Heights and surrounding neighbourhoods. It will negatively affect local restaurants and businesses and it will negatively affect Winnipeg's economy. My guests stay at our rental from anywhere from a week to many
months and they spend a lot of money in the local economy. They have told me that they would not stay for anywhere near as long if their only option was to stay in Hotels or with friends or family.
I think the City Council is making a big mistake in considering implementing these types of regulations and I believe that not enough research has been done on the positive aspect of well run short term rentals in residential neighbourhoods. They generate a lot of money in the local economy and they can have a very positive impact on local communities. They are also provide
important income to those who rely on it

I urge the Winnipeg City Councillors and Mayor Scott Gillingham to vote NO on primary-residence restriction for short term rentals.
And
I urge the Winnipeg City Councillors and the Mayor Scott Gillingham to vote NO on capping
the number of nights for short term rentals.
And
I urge the Winnipeg City Councillors and the Mayor Scott Gillingham to vote NO on restricting short term rentals to multifamily condominiums and commercial zoned areas of the city.

Sincerely
Jude Sanson

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Jude Sanson