SUBMISSION – SARA LY

ITEM 1 OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED FEBRUARY 14, 2023, REGARDING REGULATING SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 11:40:23 AM

Personal information
Full name: Sara Ly
Email address:
Phone:
Job title:
Organization:
Address:
City: Winnipeg
Province or territory: Manitoba
Postal code:

Delegation information
Committee: Executive Policy Committee
Committee - council: N/A
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): 1 Short-term rentals

Service inquiry: Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: N/A

Comments in writing: Dear Executive Policy Committee, My name is Sara Ly and I have been living in a downtown high-rise condo since 2016. My condo building was marketed as a downtown luxury living space and I was really excited to be living within walking-distance to amenities. However, my condo building has been taken over by Air BnBs. On my floor, there are 11 condo units, 5 of which are Air BnBs. In fact, my condo unit is surrounded by 4 of the 5 Air BnBs.
Since Air BnBs have moved into my building, I have become increasingly aware that my comfort, safety, and security are being disrupted by wild parties, property damage, theft and domestic violence. I personally have been physically threatened and I have witnessed plenty of fights and domestic abuse on my floor. I have witnessed police officers wearing tactical uniforms on more than one occasion and I am aware of the multiple police raids in my building, and more recently, there was a murder in an Air BnB in my building.
I never imagined anything like this when I first moved into my building. It's hard to want to stay downtown when I feel that my safety is always at risk. Rigorous regulation of Short-Term rentals needs to be in place so that the downtown can thrive. If not, people like myself who invested their lives into being part of the downtown revitalization will be leaving and nothing will be left except for the increasing crime rate that STRs are encouraging.
I recommend that the Executive Policy Committee consider the following solutions to curtail and regulate the problems of short-term rentals:
- Short-term rentals ought to be limited it is the primary residence of the person who is renting it.
- Short-term rentals ought to require permits to rent and there should be a limit of how many permits are given in a building.

- Renters of condo or apartment units should not be able to re-rent their suites as short-term rentals, as this takes away the opportunity and potential to have permanent housing and renting opportunities for others.
- Violations of city by-laws on short-term rentals should be subject to costly fines. Moreover, there should also be by-law officers to ensure the rules are being followed.
- Short-term rentals ought to register with the City of Winnipeg and the city should set up a system where residents can report violations.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely, Sara Ly

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