

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Please continue your support of the rental registry!

From: Jess Thill <thill.jess@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 8:56 AM
To: ZZ Council Members <zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Please continue your support of the rental registry!

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Members of the Common Council,

Please accept this letter of support for the proposed rental registry in the city of La Crosse. Registration of rental units is an important step in understanding the current housing situation in the city. It will also help elected officials, city staff, collaborative committees, developers, and housing professionals make informed decisions about planned developments and projects. As it stands, it is often difficult to understand, even in my own neighborhood, which houses are owner-occupied and which aren't, and whom to contact with concerns or questions.

As someone who often attends city committee and council meetings virtually (thank you for continuing to provide this option!) I can't count the number of times that I've seen public comments from people saying that they don't want new housing developments in their neighborhoods. Their objections often boil down to an objection to renters, especially those who need affordable or subsidized housing, which is already in very short supply. I hope that a rental registry will help us all understand that renters already live in and contribute to every neighborhood in our city. The registry might also help us better understand the trends regarding home ownership, which seem to anecdotally suggest that fewer and fewer renters like me are able to compete with landlords to purchase the limited existing housing stock.

I understand that there are some state-mandated limits on how much rental property owners can be required to pay to complete their registrations. I hope this won't discourage you from supporting the registry. I believe this city service can and will begin to establish a more equitable relationship between landlords, renters, and the city, which is something worth investing in.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jessica Thill
1417 Mississippi Street