

Craig, Sondra

From: Khouri Markos <khouri.markos@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 1:46 PM
To: Trost, Jennifer; ZZ Council Members
Cc: Khouri Markos
Subject: Re: STR Ordinance

Some people who received this message don't often get email from khouri.markos@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Jennifer, Thank you for sharing this reminder. Unfortunately, I'll be out of town for this meeting but I have included my letter of opposition to the proposed short-term rental restrictions below. I have also included the email address you shared so the letter can be recorded and sent to council members.

Dear Members of the Council,

I own and manage "*The Original*" which is a short-term rental (STR) and event space in downtown La Crosse located at 305 Pearl Street. I consider myself an enthusiastic ambassador for La Crosse as I welcome locals and visitors to our community every week. My guests come primarily from the Midwest for events at the La Crosse Center, conferences, family gatherings, holidays and vacations, high school and college reunions, etc. Locals have hosted baby showers, work retreats, photography shoots, graduation parties, and wedding events at The Original.

The Original is on the Federal Historic Registry and was home to the Gundersen Clinic when it opened in 1890. I share the story of the clinic with my guests and they love learning about the history of the area and the unique space that I provide. Guests I host in my short-term rental are amazed by the downtown and surrounding countryside.

I'm not opposed to thoughtful regulations on short-term rentals that are mutually beneficial to owners and neighbors. However, the proposed restrictions requiring a mandatory minimum of nights or a maximum number of annual nights would be detrimental to my ability to successfully run my business. These restrictions are in direct conflict with the travel patterns of tourists who visit La Crosse, and the locals who look for short-term retreat space. As a licensed STR owner, who pays all fees and taxes to the city of La Crosse and state of Wisconsin, I hope to be able to grow my business, and corresponding tax revenue for the city, by supporting and growing tourism in La Crosse. However, I and other short-term rental owners would be hindered in doing so with the proposed restrictions. I cannot afford to lose business based on restrictions on the number of nights guests can stay, and visitors to the city would be denied unique, historical experiences highlighting the history of our city. I ask for your support to NOT impose the proposed restrictions that are being considered at Tuesday's meeting.

Respectfully,

Khouri Markos (she/her)
507-313-1310

On Fri, Dec 1, 2023 at 9:56 AM Trost, Jennifer <trostj@cityoflacrosse.org> wrote:

Hello Khouri Markos,

I hope you are doing well. If you have an opinion about the STR ordinance, now is the time to send an email to council members and next Tuesday is the Judiciary and Administration meeting in Council chambers at 6:00.

zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org

Sincerely,

Jennifer Trost

Jennifer Trost (she, her)

trostj@cityoflacrosse.org

Council Member, District 11

608-360-2482