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From: Lenore Knudson <lknud64@gmail.com>
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To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: OPPOSE Short Term Rentals
Attachments: OPPOSE_SRT.pdf

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Good Day Council Members::

I have received a request to attend the upcoming meeting on Monday, October 30, by a concerned resident, and encouraged to share my experience with a short term rental next door to me.

Following are my comments, also included in pdf form for your convenience. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

-- County of LaCrosse Resident.

OPPOSE Short Term Rentals in Residential-zoned areas: My personal experience.

I have been trying to shut down a short term rental next door to me for two years.

Many local government authorities have been taking this matter very seriously.

They have been working very hard on this stressful topic, and it is much appreciated.

If a short term rental (such as AirBnB or VRBO) is next door to you:

SAFETY:

It is up to the residents to "police" the activity in their own neighborhoods.

No Enforcement:

A resident neighbor had contacted AirBnB stating they felt in serious danger of the renters. AirBnB told the resident neighbor to go to a hotel.

- No background checks.
- Numerous people and vehicles from out-of-county and out-of-state on daily basis.
 Having no idea when they are coming or going or why they are here.
 If a tragedy occurs, imagine trying to extradite across state lines.
- Exchanges with property owner are confrontational; verbal heated exchanges have occurred.
- Maintenance workers on that property are also unknown persons.
- I was told by one local police officer that short term rentals are a civil matter and they will respond only to criminal matters.

NUISANCE:

- Most renters are not using these places for lodging, but rather a place to hold parties, events.
- Traffic at all hours, in-and-out all day and night with loud activity. Midnight, 3:00 a.m., 4:00 a.m. Packing and unpacking goes on for hours.
- Trespassing.
- Shielding young children from possible bad people, such as bad language or worse.
- Known drug use, unlicensed pets, and suspected guns on premises.

- Local authorities will consult with you to avoid escalation of a problem. Being constantly told not to confront a situation; do not confront the property owner or the renters for fear of retaliation.
- Potential fire hazards of unattended fires.
- Worry about insurance coverage and decrease in property values.

PERSONAL IMPACT:

- Rearranging your current lifestyle to try to find peace.
- Expense of hundreds of dollars preparing for safety measures.
- Make sure you lock all doors, windows, belongings, and garage day and night.
- Not enjoying the outdoor or indoor space in your property due to nuisance noises.
- Being stressed, depressed, and angry.
- Remaining physically and emotionally drained; worrying about your health.
- Your family and friends do not want to visit due to safety concerns.

PERMITS

- Permit requirements are ignored.
- Denied permits - but renting continues.
- Any fines are merely a slap-on-the-wrist and considered the cost of doing business.
- Short term rentals are not meeting commercial side-yard setbacks so they are too close to residential zoned properties. These "hotels" should follow all building codes and be regulated the same as commercial hotels.
- How to inspect for complying with Disabilities requirements, such as handicap bathrooms and access.
- These short term rentals are commercial rental properties, often without management onsite.
- There is no tax benefit to any local governments.

These non-owner-occupied residences / hotels are "in business" 24/7.

It is my "business" if a business is next door to me. Especially if it is an unregulated illegal business.

If you do not live next door to a short term rental - you have no idea how they make your life to be "a living nightmare". I can prove every statement I have made in this document.