



July 4th, 2022

RE: Item 10.2 - Licensing Short Term Rental (STR) Accommodations

Dear Members of the Planning Committee,

Please accept this written submission as Environment Hamilton's comments regarding the proposed licensing of Short Term Rental (STR) Accommodations in the City of Hamilton listed as Item 10.2 on the July 5th Planning Committee agenda. We strongly support this proposal to license STRs and the detailed staff recommendations set out in the report - and urge the city to utilize all available measures to ensure that STRs do not compromise the rental housing stock in the city. We appreciate that staff have recognized the essential need to protect rental housing stock in the city and, further, that there is a need to ensure that all housing is safe and healthy.

We also urge the city to develop and implement a rigorous approach to enforcing any STR policy – including proactive by-law enforcement measures to ensure that STRs are not compromising the availability of rental housing stock in our community. Proactive enforcement is justifiable in this situation as a measure to counteract the growing challenges we are facing in Hamilton where the commodification of our housing stock is concerned.

Environment Hamilton is a proud member of the Just Recovery Hamilton coalition (see justrecoveryhamilton.ca). The coalition continues to work collectively to raise awareness and advocate for positive action where urgent issues like the housing crisis are concerned. On the housing crisis, the coalition is advocating to ensure that everyone in our city is able to access safe, healthy and affordable housing. Any municipal policy measures that contribute to this goal are measures that we support. Housing is a fundamental human right. Further, in a climate emergency, it is essential to also ensure that everyone has safe, healthy housing that enables people to cope in extreme heat, cold, and everything in between.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. M. Lukasik", is written in a cursive style.

Lynda M. Lukasik, PhD
Executive Director

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