

Dear Members of Hamilton City Council:

I am writing to you regarding the following amendments to the Short-Term Rental By-Law. Regarding changes made to Airbnb STR. I am requesting no cap for the number of nights per year an Airbnb Host can rent out their home.

CITY OF HAMILTON BY-LAW NO.

Short-Term Rental By-law XX-XXX to Amend By-law 07-170, a By-law to License and Regulate Various Businesses

My name is Gabrielle Marchese. I was born and raised in Hamilton. I have resided in Ancaster for 22 years and have been an Airbnb Host for the last three. My Airbnb is in a section of my home above my garage. It has a separate entrance, is fully insured, and is a self-contained unit. It is structured as a very short term stay mini suite; one to two nights. It cannot accommodate longer stays. Additionally, I enjoy my privacy and Airbnb provides me with the flexibility to block of days/weeks/months. Something I could not do with a longer-term renter.

I have owned longer term rental properties in the past, but the process of evicting unruly and/or non-paying tenants became a huge financial burden.

My decision to become an Airbnb Host began as a financial consideration. Single income, empty nester who was looking to maintain my home in my picturesque neighbourhood.

Airbnb Hosting has turned into so much more. Engaging with people from all over the world has been thoroughly enjoyable. I am so proud of my Hamilton community and this business has allowed me to show off our attributes. Through guest engagement and my personalized Ancaster Community Guidebook, I provide a valuable service to my community. Guests learn about our lovely community, its history, and all its conveniences.

I am an Airbnb SuperHost, rated by every guest. This effectively means I have a Five out of Five Star rating. My neighbours are aware and supportive of my little side business, as it is not intrusive. I have never had any unruly guests or unfortunate incidents because Airbnb operates a rigorous vetting process for potential guests, as do I. Outside of the historical beauty and charm of The Barracks Inn, there is limited space available for one or two evening accommodations in Ancaster. Most of my guests attend functions at the Ancaster Mill, as they benefit from my proximity to this famous Ancaster landmark. Of course, this also means that visitors staying in our town patronize our local businesses. My guests regularly support Ancaster Small Businesses; Sammy's, Coach & Lantern, Brewer's Blackbird, Esthetic Retreat, to mention a few.

My Airbnb provides a much-needed service for my guests, my neighbourhood, and the Ancaster business community. Once again, I am requesting no cap for the number of nights per year an Airbnb Host can rent out their home.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Gabrielle Marchese