

From: Adam Oldfield
Sent: January 13, 2023 9:34 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Protect short-term rentals in Hamilton

Dear Town Clerk Town Clerk,

Dear Hamilton City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the continued use of AirBnB within the city of Hamilton (without restriction) and my opposition to the proposed by-law that would impose a 120-day restriction on AirBnB rentals. I would like to share a personal experience of how AirBnB helped a couple in need of short-term shelter after their home was destroyed in a fire.

The couple, who were long-time residents of Hamilton, lost everything in the fire, including their home and all of their possessions. They were understandably devastated and needed a place to stay while they worked to rebuild their lives.

They reached out to us, as hosts of an AirBnB rental, in search of short-term housing. We were able to accommodate them in our home and provide them with a comfortable and safe place to stay while they worked with insurance and other organizations to rebuild their lives.

During their stay, they were able to find a permanent home, but they were not ready to move in right away. If it wasn't for AirBnB, they would have been in a difficult situation as the hotels in the area were fully booked or were not able to accommodate their needs. We offered the ability of having a furnished stay that helped with their already stressful situation.

The couple's experience highlights the importance of the availability of short-term housing options like AirBnB for those in need, whether it be due to unexpected circumstances like a house fire or other financial difficulties.

Furthermore, the proposed 120-day restriction on AirBnB rentals would greatly impede the ability of property owners like myself to cover the costs of providing short-term shelter to those in need. For many, renting out their property on a short-term basis is the only way to make ends meet, especially in this inflation climate and the cost of living increasing every day!

I urge the Hamilton City Council to consider the real-life impact that this proposed by-law would have on the availability of short-term housing options for those in need and to instead focus on finding solutions that would address any concerns that may exist without imposing such a severe restriction on AirBnB rentals.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely, Adam Oldfield