

Donna Reid

January 23, 2023

To: Hamilton Mayor & City Councillors

RE: Proposed Restrictions/ Fees to Short Term Rentals in Hamilton

I am concerned that our City is moving forward without a fully informed and updated report from the ByLaw Department.

The presenter at Planning last week (Ben) – delivered a 2 year year old report, prepared by a former employee. They were unable to reply to some Planning Committee's queries.

I'm not confident that our ByLaw & Licensing department has a clear understanding of the two very different types of short term stay options available here.

Why were only Vancouver and Toronto the only comparatives?
What about Calgary – a city more like Hamilton? Completely ignored. I would urge you to review their STR bylaw on the City of Calgary website and on Airbnb. Clear, concise and a 2 Tier system of fees and inspections.

The proposed high fees and bureaucracy for Hamilton will impact the homeowners, many retired and/or on their own, who rent out a room or two to help with the costs of home maintenance and repairs.

I have hosted guests in my home, off and on, for over 20 years. Most are from Europe, South America and the United States. Many are medical professionals, medical and grad students and people visiting Hamilton for conferences (pre covid) and family events. My average stay is 4 days. Many are repeats.

95 % of my guests do not require parking. They come from places where transit, cycling and walking are the preferred modes of transportation.

As a "new" senior I plan to age in place, in my home because Hamilton is the "Best Place to Age Successfully".....

I hope you send this "plan" back to the drawing board to better represent Hamilton.

Thank you.

Donna Reid