

Date	March 9, 2020
To	City of Madison Plan Commission
From	Diane Morgenthaler, EVP Destination Madison
Subject	Tourist Rooming House Ordinances

In 2013 as the City considered the current ordinances relating to Tourist Rooming Houses, we recognized that visitors expected options for experiencing our community that included hotels, bed and breakfasts and short term rentals through marketplaces like Airbnb and VRBO. We asked that visitor safety be considered, and supported the licensing in place today through Public Health Madison & Dane County.

We also offered to assist in the rollout of the ordinance and provided support for the education and licensing of hosts in conjunction with city and county staff.

We believe in and support the sharing economy. However much has changed throughout the world as the sharing economy has grown.

We must acknowledge that today this requires us to explore how to engage in sustainable tourism practices. That is, where quality of life for residents and the authentic character of a community is sustained.

We have been monitoring the global conversation surrounding tourist rooming houses and the impact that this growth has had on communities. We have seen unexpected challenges arise – from creating a shortage of affordable housing in San Francisco to destruction of the fabric of neighborhoods in Amsterdam.

Beyond safety, these challenges impact quality of life in communities. It is with this in mind that we support the amendment in front of you today.

Again, we believe in and support Tourist Rooming Houses as part of our destinations offerings. And we are committed to safety for visitors and sustained quality of life for our neighbors.

