

February 12, 2020

Dear Planning Commission Members

I appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns and express our support for the proposed ordinance to strengthen the regulations associated with the operation of tourist rooming houses in Madison at your February 10, 2020 meeting. I recognize that the scheduling process which pushed this ordinance consideration to the March 9th, 2020 meeting may have impacted your decision not to ask any questions of those of us who spoke out in favor of the ordinance. That said, I certainly would have been willing, as would our other neighbors, to answer any questions that you might have had at the February 10th meeting especially since I will not be able to speak at the March 9th meeting. Unfortunately, it may limit what you hear to only those individuals opposed to the ordinance changes prior to a vote on the issue. I would call your attention to the attachment (Hill Farms Comments) that is a letter to the Mayor signed by voting age members (n=17) of 8 households in Hill Farms who property is adjacent to or across the street from a TRH that was operating outside of the city regulations that this ordinance is designed to strength enforcement.

What is more disturbing is the fact that the operator of this tourist rooming house despite willingly giving up their license (you can confirm with Zoning and Public Health) now appears to be advertising on AirBNB again showing not four listings at the same address which they were doing before but five listings. The screenshots of the listings, name, URL and available dates are shown in the table below.

As members of the Planning Commission, it should be noted that neither the owner or operator are living in the house now and have not lived there for the past several months. In other words, it is not their primary residence especially since a significant portion of the furniture was moved out of the house over the Thanksgiving weekend. Both issues that the new ordinance is intended to address. I shared this information with Matt Tucker in zoning, Alder Martin and City Attorney Strange. Their replies were as follows:

Matt Tucker with Zoning replied "We are aware that they have listings up again, and are watching that" and John Strange replied "I've alerted the prosecutors to this". The later comment from Attorney Strange is important because they had and may still be pursuing a case against the owner of this property.

This is just further evidence that the changes to the TRH ordinances are needed in the city of Madison which is why I support this proposed change.

Sincerely

Jay Ford

5026 Marath

Listing Information	Screen Shot from Listing Page as of 2/12/2020
<p>Queen adjustable bed, private bathroom and Entry.</p> <p>https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/34862094?source_impression_id=p3_1581526257_K6KZqhmFvyLnVTOD</p> <p>Listing 1 available: May 1-3, 7-11</p>	<p>Private room in bungalow 1 guest 1 bedroom 1 bed 1 private bathroom</p> <p>Self check-in Check yourself in with the keypad.</p> <p>Sparkling clean 7 recent guests said this place was sparkling clean</p> <p>Great location 93% of recent guests gave the location a 5-star rating</p> <hr/> <p>You will have your own private entrance and bathroom. The only thing you might be sharing is the kitchen. You will have a washing machine, grill, patio, swings and playground. You will be as long as you are 10 feet away from the fire hydrant and your neighbors driveway. You will have your own refrigerator.</p> <p>The house has 5 bedrooms so you will be sharing the house with other guests as well as the owner lives there.</p>
<p>Comfortable Queen Bedroom</p> <p>https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/32637121?source_impression_id=p3_1581526370_Q5vdG9gsPYLeObwJ</p> <p>Listing 2 available: May 31, June 1, July 15-31, Aug 1-9</p>	<p>Private room in house 1 guest 1 bedroom 1 bed 1 shared bathroom</p> <p>Self check-in Check yourself in with the keypad.</p> <p>Great location 90% of recent guests gave the location a 5-star rating</p> <p>Great check-in experience 90% of recent guests gave the check-in process a 5-star rating</p> <hr/> <p>Queen comfortable bed in very quite safe neighborhood. TV, free WIFI (high speed internet), Bluetooth speaker, built in great size desk, nice size closet, fridge and sink, access to back yard, kids climber, picnic table, barbecue grill.</p> <p>The house has five bedrooms and three full bathrooms. You will be sharing the house with other Airbnb guests as well as the owner.</p> <p>Read more about the space ▾</p>

<p>Two Twin Beds</p> <p>https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/32619810?source_impression_id=p3_1581526414_0pR%2FBpVtc3nlXAnY</p> <p>Listing 3 available: April 15-30, May 1-11</p>	<p>🏠 Private room in bungalow 1 guest 1 bedroom 2 beds 1 shared b</p> <p>🔑 Self check-in Check yourself in with the keypad.</p> <p>📍 Great location 95% of recent guests gave the location a 5-st</p> <p>👤 Great check-in experience 95% of recent guests gave the check-in proc</p> <hr/> <p>Two single comfortable beds in a very quite safe has TV, free WIFI(high speed internet) Bluetoot desk for reading, iron, fridge and microwave.</p> <p>The house has five bedrooms,three full bathroom house with other Airbnb guests plus the owner</p> <p>Read more about the space ▾</p>
<p>Private Entry and private bathroom, whole basement</p> <p>https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/34862547?source_impression_id=p3_1581526456_6%2Bms3C50hIxGqQc9</p> <p>Listing 3 available: April 15-30, May 1-11</p>	<p>1 guest 1 bedroom 1 bed 1 bath</p> <p>🏠 Entire home You'll have the bungalow to yourself.</p> <p>🔑 Self check-in Check yourself in with the keypad.</p> <p>🧼 Sparkling clean 9 recent guests said this place was sparkling</p> <p>📍 Great location 94% of recent guests gave the location a 5-st</p> <hr/> <p>private entrance takes you straight to the basen Garage to park in(preferably that you park in the driveway next to the garage).</p> <p>REMINDER:Make sure to shut the garage door w</p> <p>Read more about the space ▾</p>

Quite safe neighborhood

https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/31344556?source_impression_id=p3_1581526521_D5Tw8EphnyCka%2Fib

Listing 5 has no available dates

2 guests 2 bedrooms 2 beds 2 baths

🏠 Entire home

You'll have the bungalow to yourself.

🔑 Self check-in

Check yourself in with the keypad.

🧼 Sparkling clean

7 recent guests said this place was sparkling clean.

📍 Great location

100% of recent guests gave the location a 5-star rating.

The place is part of the house, it's NOT the entire house. It's a whole basement. The owner lives in the other part of the house. It's a separate private unit that has private entrance, two living rooms, two TVs, dining table, Kitchen, pool table, pool table, foosball and darts. Fireplace and grill, playground and two swings. The owner lives in the other part of the home.

[Read more about the space](#) ▾