

Sunday February 2, 2020

Dear Members of Madison City Planning Commission:

I am a property owner, taxpayer and concerned citizen (**without financial motive**) writing in support of rule changes to strengthen the regulation and enforcement of Tourist Rooming House-TRH business operation within the city of Madison (File 58895).

It is well documented that social media platform based commercial businesses are encouraging the expansion of the TRH industry all over our city, the country and the world. This business expansion is occurring with few regulations and negative impact on neighborhoods. As a paying customer, I have participated in and financially benefited from such travel housing opportunities. Owing to my lived experience and new impact awareness, I will no longer choose to do so.

I am now ashamed to say, it was not until our direct neighbors' single room rental business expanded, uncontrolled ("under the radar") into a full blown unregulated "mini-hotel," that I did my research and acutely realized the vast negative social impact of these TRH financial operations across the globe, as well as, closer to home. Over a nearly 18-month period, our family used every socially and politically appropriate avenue of support we could muster to express our concerns (talking with the business operators, fellow neighbors, block captain, neighborhood association, alder, zoning office, police department and elected officials at city and state levels). Through (File 58895) ordinance changes, our community has come to a possible long-term means of limiting the negative impact of underregulated TRHs on neighborhoods; preventing diminished quality of life, increased traffic and home safety risk, and falling property values. This ordinance could prevent our lived experience from becoming another innocent and unsuspecting neighbor's nightmare. Our neighborhoods and civil service infrastructure are not built to support untethered growth of TRH industry throughout the city.

Please acknowledge that many of the voices against stronger TRH regulation and enforcement come from those who are fiscally benefiting from this underregulated and growing business practice. Without regulation as contained in the proposed ordinance, File 58895, the potential exists for a growing business practice to further negatively disrupt the quality of life of property owners across Madison who are choosing to not directly participate in the TRH industry.

I support the efforts by the Planning Commission to strengthen ordinances to improve and enforce the regulation of Tourist Rooming Houses in the City of Madison.

Respectfully submitted

Amy J. Ford
Concerned Citizen