

To: Members of the Plan Commission and Board of Health For Madison and Dane County
From: Peter Taglia, 718 West Brittingham Place, Madison, WI 53715

Out of respect for your time, I want you to know that I have been working with other residents who are deeply concerned with how the above-referenced proposed ordinance was developed and the process to date in how it has been introduced and revised. Many of us plan to present more of our concerns jointly using our allocated public comment time at the Board of Health meeting on March 4th, the next meeting of the Plan Commission on March 9th and subsequent meetings of commissions or the Common Council. **This is unfortunate because our public board and commission process is NOT an efficient way to evaluate proposed regulations that were drafted in the absence of robust stakeholder engagement.**

The contentious Plan Commission meeting on February 10th is a perfect illustration of how this process has been flawed. Residents of some districts were told by their alder in blog posts that the meeting on the 10th was just a re-referral and not a public hearing. Other residents were told by other alders via public posts on Facebook that they could speak on their concerns at the meeting on February 10th. Staff was also not of one voice on what would be discussed on the 10th and local news articles also referenced a public hearing on this subject on the 10th. Thus, **many residents were shocked and angered** to see a printed notice for the TRH agenda item posted above the agenda and registration table at the Plan Commission meeting on February 10th that stated "Registrants may speak before the Plan Commission tonight or on March 9, but may not speak at both meetings."

As noted in the Legistar file for this item on the February 10th agenda: *"This item has generated a significant number of public comments. Due to the volume of comments received, copies of those comments have not been provided to the Plan Commission with their printed materials for this meeting. However, all of the comments received have been attached to the legislative file (ID 58895)."*

Many residents attending the Plan Commission meeting on February 10th reluctantly chose to remain silent to preserve their ability to comment on March 9th, but those who made public statements were passionately in favor or opposed to the ordinance. That passion was unfortunate because it was also clear that both sides have common ground in that **NOBODY is in favor of out-of-state absentee property owners hosting disruptive party houses!**

- What does it say about the process and the ordinance that residents are being pitted against each other by the process?
- What does it say about the process when I, as a licensed TRH operator, AGREE with some of the residents supporting this ordinance that the infamous house on Marathon Drive is a problem?
- What does it say about the process when other residents, including some in the Hill Farms area who were impacted by the infamous Marathon Drive house, have publicly

stated that they *do not* want responsible licensed hosts like myself to be penalized because of a tiny number of bad actors like the Marathon Drive house?

- What does it say about the process when the zoning staff who drafted this ordinance continue to use Sedona Arizona, a tourist hamlet with 10,000 residents in a state that prohibits local control of TRHs, as an example of why Madison, Wisconsin needs to revise our regulations? We would laugh if transportation staff or school administrators used the experiences of Sedona to make conclusions about the transportation or school plans for our economically diverse city of nearly 300,000.

To date, there has been only ONE stakeholder engagement in Madison on the subject of TRH regulations that included operators and their neighbors. That engagement was done by the Monona Bay Neighborhood Association (MBNA) in a detailed survey of over 30 residents done in mid-January and a subsequent public board meeting of the MBNA to discuss the survey results. A letter from the MBNA with the survey results and a summary were submitted to the Plan Commission, Alders and Mayors before the first public hearing for this ordinance on January 21st. The letter from the MBNA is attachment #3 to the Legistar file #58895. I respectfully request that you read or re-read that thoughtful letter and ask yourself if the proposed ordinance in any way reflects the diverse views of those neighborhood stakeholders?

This ordinance should be tabled until a proper stakeholder process is initiated at the City level. Regulating TRHs is a matter for all neighborhoods and residents who have an interest in our City's ongoing economic health and quality of life. Finally, I urge the Board of Health to stay involved with regulation of Tourist Rooming Houses since public health staff will continue to collect fees from TRHs and inspect these properties.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Peter Taglia
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