

September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 **Planning and Development Committee Meeting: Item 5.5 Airbnb**

My name is Mary Alice St. James. I represent a Community Association within Burlington: A.C.T. (Activate Community Teamwork). Within the last month, ACT developed due to over 60 of my local neighbours getting together with worries about our neighbourhood's safety. For over one year we have tried to contend with a significantly compromised quality of life due to a neighbour's Airbnb. On weekends and even during the week this guised as an Airbnb advertised "Commercial Banquet Hall" has wreaked havoc within our neighbourhood.

Our shared hope is for an immediate Airbnb Interim Protocol/Bylaw/Guideline. It is needed throughout Burlington. Our particular area is zoned single residential R2.1. The particular Airbnb that I describe is more than a single home business. It is a Commercial Enterprise guised as an Airbnb. It is identified as a "Mega-Mansion Banquet Hall: ideal for weddings, reunions, commercial conferences, meetings, etc. Recently the ever changing website eliminated advertising for high school proms, college and university gatherings. Just last week though very young renters arrived at the Mega-Mansion Banquet Hall just after 11:00p.m. Both sides of our neighbourhood streets were promptly lined with well over 45 cars in a matter of minutes. When I crossed across the road to my neighbour's home to dissuade four young men from urinating and defecating on my neighbour's front yard, the party had not yet started. Many arriving to the gathering were inebriated upon arrival. Many neighbours within A.C.T. telephoned Bylaw due to the blaring noise, the parking irregularities and worries about our homes and our individual safety. Many called the after hour telephone line for the police. I was one who telephoned repeatedly. I do not frighten easily but I am continuously frightened now. A.C.T. is delegating because we are worried about our safety, the safety of others, the safety of our homes, the safety of our vehicles, etc. and our livability.

Beyond an immediate interim and enforceable Airbnb Guideline, in our neighbourhood's situation, we require immediate support from you. We feel justifiably unsafe with a Commercial Banquet Hall within steps of homes. We are not sleeping well and we are not living as we should expect with being able to be outside in our yards or even inside. We have party busses parking in front of our homes; drunken disorderly renters urinating and defecating on our properties; vandalism; garbage such as used condoms, beer bottles, liquor bottles, cans, food, napkins plates and even a cooler left in our yards and on our streets. This week we found broken bong with the glass shattered below a neighbour's driveway. At all hours of the night we have endured fireworks, strobe lights, an unattended fire pit, DJs music and voices at high than livable decibels both outdoors and indoors, key fobs opening car doors (beeping) in the early morning hours of 3:00a.m. waking neighbours up to loud conversations about their adventures. Retching and vomiting in front of your home are tough sounds to dismiss when you are awakened. Cleaning up the next morning isn't much better. Should anybody have to contend with this constant safety worry?

We need your immediate help. The Banquet Hall is advertised as having other properties. We are therefore not alone. Concerns extend far beyond this Delegation and far beyond the drone that begins at the Banquet Hall and flies and hovers over our yards. Please help us - yes with an immediate Airbnb Guideline but also with a Commercial Banquet Hall that should not be allowed or condoned to continue.