

Planning & Development Committee
City of Burlington
Re: PB-71-19
Short-Term Accommodations

The response from the Building Department is inadequate and the short-term solutions outlined will allow the problem to continue. Residents in our area need immediate action before something unthinkable happens. The property at 4319 Lakeshore is in violation of noise & nuisance by-laws on a regular basis, operating under false pretences, and creating safety and health hazards for the community... among other issues! The City is also losing out on business tax revenue, since the owners are marketing this property as an event space.

This may be the most blatant example locally, but surely it's not the only one. And perhaps it's just a matter of time before we see a story like this one from the weekend:

1 DEAD, 1 INJURED IN NEWMARKET SHOOTING
LAST UPDATED OCT 5, 2019 AT 6:17 PM EDT

A man has died and a woman is in hospital after a shooting at an Airbnb in Newmarket Friday night... Police say several shots were fired at the victims and believe the shooting was targeted. It's believed the people who were shot were renting the Airbnb at the time of the shooting, but it's still early in the investigation... Airbnb has confirmed to CityNews the home was listed on their site and the booking guest has been removed from the platform. In a statement, they said "The senseless violence reported is abhorrent and has no place in the Airbnb community, and our thoughts are with those who have been impacted by this incident ... We stand ready to support York Regional Police in their investigation."

Air BnB's policy on irresponsible owners who allow things to get out of hand seems to be missing from this statement. If this weren't reason enough to get ahead of the problem, here's another consideration: During a recent open house for the property that was just flipped next to me, the real estate agent was overheard telling prospective buyers that they could use the home as an Air BnB. Is this the new real estate model? I certainly don't want a revolving door of strangers next to me.

Smart, effective, impactful, immediate regulation needs to be in place asap before this becomes an epidemic. There are companies that help municipalities crack down on this exact issue and I'd be happy to look into their services on behalf of the City.

Respectfully,
Leslie Barbeta