

To: Community Planning Regulation and Mobility Committee
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023
Re: CPRM-03-23 Motion Memo - Development and implementation of a city-wide short-term accommodation compliance/licensing program

To Whom It May Concern

I am pleased to finally see a motion come to the table that addresses the need for regulations surrounding short-term accommodations (STA). However, given the number of years we have been discussing this issue, the timelines proposed for undertaking and implementing a licensing framework seem to be much longer than what is necessary or reasonable at this point. Other municipalities in the GTA are steps ahead of us, having already sorted out their STA bylaws and licensing terms:

<https://www.oakville.ca/town-hall/by-laws-enforcement/popular-by-laws/short-term-accomodation/>

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/housing-shelter/short-term-rentals/>

<https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/2023-01/23-005.pdf>

Shoreacres residents were relieved to see an out of control Airbnb shut down a few years ago, but it's only a matter of time before another unfortunate incident takes place. Last week's fatal fire in a Montreal building with unauthorized short-term rental properties should be a wake-up call for any municipality that has yet to impose any kind of oversight:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/short-term-rental-safety-regulations-provincial-law-1.6784630>

We constantly seem to work *reactively* and not *proactively*. It's bad enough living next to a revolving door of houseguests, but to then have to fear one's personal safety, or to witness a horrible tragedy that could have been prevented, just compounds the anger and frustration residents feel over the lack of regulation.

In closing, I would ask this Committee to **expedite the proposed timelines**, and when licensing and regulations are finally approved, we ask you to ensure there are **an appropriate number of bylaw enforcement officers** available to handle complaints. Regulations mean very little if residents can't count on help during the evening or weekend, when the majority of disruptions are likely to take place.

Thank you,

Leslie Barbetta
Active Community Teamwork (A.C.T.) Co-Chair