From: Tracey Doherty
To: CD STRComment
Subject: NO Absentee STRs in Residential Neighborhoods
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 3:51:15 PM

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Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to voice my ongoing frustration that the County does not have a process for enforcing the current STR codes that are intended to protect and preserve the neighborhoods in Chelan County. My husband and I purchased our home on Ski Hill in Leavenworth nearly five years ago. We did our research and purchased a home in the area of the UGA where nightly rentals were not allowed. Afterall, this wasn't just one of the largest investments my husband and I were going to make, it was also where we would be raising our two school aged children.

Unfortunately, due to the County's current lack of code enforcement, the last two years have been hell for our family. The home next door to us has been running as an unlicensed VRBO and not only on weekends but during the week, there is a constant stream of parties. As a matter of fact, it is known in our neighborhood as just that...the party house. There are frequently over 15 people staying in the house and the behavior of the "guests" is not something synonymous with a neighborhood. Public urination (often in front of my kids), music so loud and vulgar my husband is unable to conduct conference calls from his home office during the day, yelling and fighting that has kept my children up past 2am, and overflowing garbage are just a few of the issues we have had to deal with on a constant basis. Unfortunately, the absentee owner of this property cared very little about the impact this type of rental had on the neighborhood and was not willing to address the issues.

Recently, "the party house" was sold. This would have normally been cause for great celebration in our neighborhood but without any sort of enforcement of the county codes there is nothing stopping the new owners from running this unlicensed business in the same manner as the former owner. These types of businesses do not belong in residential neighborhoods. I should not have to manage someone else's business/guest. My family's investment and our overall ability to enjoy our own home should not be so negatively impacted by absentee owners who only care about profit and not the neighborhoods in which they choose to operate these illegal businesses! There needs to be a clear path to code enforcement to protect **every** Chelan County property owner's investment - not just that of short term rental owners.

Sincerely,

Tracey Doherty