

5-10-19 PKts.



## Vacation Rental Response

shannon stack

to:

MayorCouncil

05/09/2019 12:54 PM

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From: "shannon stack" [REDACTED]

To: MayorCouncil@city.ames.ia.us

Good morning and thank you for your time.

My name is Shannon Stack I live at [REDACTED]. I am currently an Airbnb host and I have been speaking at most of the meetings concerning vacation rentals. The last meeting left most of us feeling rather lost and we've all been thinking of ideas to help move plans forward and allow vacation rentals to keep operating.

I have the following ideas to share, in regards to issuing licenses, you can have a numbered amount that will be given out such as 100-150 and once those are issued no more will be allowed for a certain period of time. As it stands currently, there are probably 70 homes in Ames that are on the platform, not including other surrounding cities or rental companies. You can make a stipulation that large companies will not be allowed to rent out apartments or condos, I know this can be an issue in larger cities and would definitely help the small local business owners such as myself. Lastly, you could put a limit on how many homes hosts can rent out under their ownership, for example if someone owns 5 places, perhaps they can only use 3 as vacation rentals, this way long term rentals are still available and the idea that there will no affordable housing can be accounted for.

Vacation rentals have become a staple in many places over the last 7-8 years and they're not going to stop. There are even hotels in Ames that are on the Airbnb platform. I honestly feel like vacation rentals in Ames have been a positive addition to the community and can continue this way. There have not legal issues or police problems in the last two years that I've found, we all have wanted to make this legal and move forward with our businesses.

This also means allowing all types of homes to continue as vacation rentals. Not allowing full homes to be rented will impact those of us with hosted homeshares. Travelers have different needs and most of us with families don't always feel comfortable staying in a house where the owner lives as well. Hosts who own full home rentals are on the property at least weekly if not more. The homes are well maintained, probably better in some cases than long term rentals.

Finally, I want to say that I personally don't have a rental in the SCAN area that was being effected by the rental cap, less than half of the vacation rentals in Ames are in that area. I would like you to see this from my point of view. Why are small business owners who don't live in that area in risk of losing our businesses because a small group of people wanted a rental cap basically on the college campus? Why are the complaints of this group so much more important than all of ours?

Thank you again for your time, my email is [REDACTED] and my cell is [REDACTED]