



Victoria Volent <vvolent@portlandmaine.gov>

Re: Short Term Rentals: One Person One Listing Without Exception

1 message

Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>

Sun, Oct 14, 2018 at 6:21 PM

To: Jai Kang <jaigene.kang@gmail.com>

Cc: Mary Davis <mpd@portlandmaine.gov>, Victoria Volent <vvolent@portlandmaine.gov>

Thank for your message.

I have copied your e-mail to staff so it can be included in the Committee records.

On Fri, Oct 12, 2018, 10:24 PM Jai Kang <jaigene.kang@gmail.com> wrote:

To The Housing Committee,

I am writing to you as a constituent and as a renter -- the latter being a population which dwarfs landlords and stands in contrast to homeowners.

I understand the council is besieged by policies -- federal, state, and otherwise -- far beyond your scope and may feel helpless to fight back against unregulated hostels like AirBNB. However, the council has laudably made clear they have made their initial attempts at regulations too complex to enforce, consume, and even track. It's wonderful you are considering going back to the drawing board.

That being said, I STRONGLY OPPOSE creating a grandfathered class of 300+ rentals. This would effectively create a permanent, highly extracting tier in a **2-tier system**. It would also make clear that the council is more interested in the interests of moneyed corporations, the pleasure of tourists, and the whims of the Chamber Commerce over everyday people struggling to survive in a quickly gentrifying city.

There is a lot to love about Portland, but everyday it quickly vanishes from our hands. In place of the people and culture that make Portland an attractive place to live we see more luxury condos, lavish restaurants, and other such amenities for the ultra wealthy. Staving the bleeding of the STRs is not a solution but would at least be a palliative gesture for the precarious renter class in Portland.

The young, the new to Maine, and the like already tell each other not to go to Portland -- to instead seek Biddeford, Saco, or Westbrook. It's often said that Portland is a fare-gone conclusion -- and not enacting a simple, egalitarian "One Person One Listing (without exception)" rule would prove such assertions correct.

Sincerely,
Jai Kang
824 Washington Ave