

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Mayor Tory](#)
Cc: [Clerk](#)
Subject: MM2.8 "Calling on short term rentals to play by the rules"
Date: January 29, 2019 11:49:05 AM

Good Day Mayor Tory,

I am writing to you with regards to motion MM2.8 "Calling on short term rentals to play by the rules". Please find below, a letter from the Toronto Airbnb Host Club for your consideration.

Best Regards,
Paul Nedoszytko

Dear Mayor Tory and Councillors,

It is extremely concerning and disturbing that a motion is scheduled to be introduced to Toronto City Council on January 30, 2019 by Councillor Cressy which calls upon Toronto City Council to interfere with our rights as short-term rental hosts to appeal decisions made by our elected officials. It is also troubling this motion suggests that Airbnb ought to circumvent the process in place to handle the adjudication of municipal planning matters and implement short-term regulations passed by Toronto City Council on December 7, 2017, which are currently under appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT).

As citizens in the Province of Ontario, it is incumbent on us to respect and obey the laws and to allow adjudicative tribunals to function and fulfill their duties. It is our opinion that Toronto City Council should be held to this same standard and not attempt to interfere with regulations currently on appeal before the LPAT or cater to the interests of the hotel lobby.

Toronto has had a serious homeless and affordability crisis for quite some time now. Recently, the Toronto Executive Committee held a meeting in an effort to address this crisis situation. Dozens of experts in the area of housing and homelessness deputed in an effort to identify real and meaningful measures to address the crisis we are facing.

It was clearly identified at the Executive Committee meeting that our city needs more supportive housing with mental health services, more "rent geared to income" housing for low-wage income earners, and more "deeply affordable" housing units such as co-op housing owned and operated by non-profit corporations, for individuals on limited social assistance.

Councillor Cressy cites a report by Fairbnb, which claims that there are 6,500 entire homes in Toronto that are being used as 'ghost hotels'. He also claims that these are being used as permanent short-term rentals and if these units were to be put back on the open market for sale or rent, this would somehow address the homeless and affordability crisis in our city. It is doubtful the removal of these units would have these intended results. Our city desperately needs affordable, supportive housing. Asking the Airbnb platform to 'voluntarily' enforce regulations under appeal may have unintended consequences as many homeowners rely upon short-term rental income as supplemental income to afford their home.

In closing, we are a group of concerned Airbnb hosts who have actively participated in this city's process towards regulating short-term rentals. Over the years, we have written letters, deputed, met with Councillors, and come to City Hall because we believe in the fair and reasonable regulation of home sharing. We also believe in the democratic process and call on our Councillors to do the same.

Thank you for your time,

The Toronto Host Club

Signed:

Selina Banu

Barbara Disman

Diane Devenyi

Russell Sutherland

Casper Rowe

Victoria Rowe

Victoria Hadden

Susan Dineen

Miles Raine

Douglas Beecroft

Ruth Donsky

Rick & Judy Duque

Lucille & Alan Yates

Karen Yang

Arlene & Louis Crout

Ed Van Gennip

Paul & Lina Nedoszytko

Vanessa Tam

Maxine Louie

Colin Gillies

This communication is part of an approved grass roots campaign taking place until February 11, 2019 under subject matter registration SM27179 regarding economic development, licences/licensing and planning and development (Zoning By-law) with respect to policies related to home-sharing.