

From: [Chelsea Wekenborg](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Cc: [Hall, Heather](#); [ONeill, Kevin](#); [Loar, Teresa](#); [Ellington, Brandon](#); [Robinson, Melissa](#); [Shields, Katheryn](#); [Bunch, Eric](#); [Barnes, Lee](#); [Bough, Andrea](#); [McManus, Kevin](#); [Platt, Brian](#); [Lucas, Quinton](#)
Subject: Short Term Rental Ordinances
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 12:39:13 PM

Dear Council Members and Mayor Lucas,

RE: Ordinance 230267 and 230268

We support short term rentals as a necessary and important part of Kansas City's tourism and economy. As the short term rental industry matures we implore you to institute a new standard that will show a compromise between the STR industry and the neighborhoods we operate in. It is important that our industry is allowed to have a path forward for responsible growth. Implementing fair regulations and allowing short term rentals to exist in all residential zones with density requirements is working towards a compromise while a complete BAN on our industry is not. If the STR industry can be treated like any other regulated industry such as physicians or realtors, having unlicensed operators not being allowed to open for businesses or receive heavy fines would dramatically cut down on the number of properties being operated within the city. This needs to be an option that we are looking at along with delisting illegal airbnbs off 3rd party platforms.

The STR's in Kansas City feed the local businesses, in addition to providing Kansas City residents with jobs that support the global progressive stature Kansas City now enjoys. These properties also provide much needed housing in situations where hotels are not an option due to familial status, allergies, pets, mobility issues, etc. It is proven that short term rentals play an important role in the sharing economy and that is why the industry should not be eliminated.

Please understand that significant financial investments in Kansas City have been made based on the current ordinance with the expectation of enforcement. A grandfathering in of current licensed Type 2 short term rentals is an absolute necessity. We also ask that these licenses stay with the properties upon transferring title or selling.

We appreciate and are in favor of many things in the ordinance and support neighborhoods in controlling illegal proliferation, problems caused by poorly managed establishments, and preserving the character and integrity of our neighborhoods. But this new ordinance will gut the whole industry and shut down 93% of the current rentals. We ask for some easement in the zonings such as being allowed to operate in R zones with density requirements and to be allowed to operate unrestricted in business zones so that this industry can be allowed to grow responsibly and support the needs of travelers and locals that need this kind of alternative housing. We also fully support any and all enforcement of illegal short term rentals and want our industry to be good stewards in the community.

Thank you,
Chelsea Wekenborg