

August 5, 2020

Re: Short Term Rentals

Dear Mayor and Town Council Members,

I am writing this letter to share my concerns about the short-term rental situation in our town, but mainly on my street, Sky Lane. I am so glad to hear that you put a moratorium on the short-term rentals for now. My quiet street has become less than peaceful, at times.

The Airbnbs on my street are turning over at a much higher rate than ever. I am sure that there are way more people than legally allowed in the homes at times. It seems to be a place to get away and have parties for some. Don't get me wrong, I love a good party, but when late night noise, parking and cars racing up and down the street becomes an issue, we have a problem. On several occasions, I have had to stop people or actually go knock on doors and ask not to race or to keep the noise down very late at night.

Trash has been a major issue, especially with the bears. There is trash on my street right now from bears getting into STR home's cans. Today's particular can was even bear "resistant" and the bear chewed right through the side of the can and trash is everywhere. Locals keep their trash in their homes until just before the trash pickup comes, it would be nice if *everyone* did the same. I have had issues with renters dumping random trash in the bottom of my can by the street, almost weekly. I have also had to pick up renter's dog poop in my driveway and yard. When I catch the owners with their dogs, I make them clean it up. The house at the west end of Sky Lane have had guests dump crab and oyster shells over the fence onto Ted Cleveland's property causing an even bigger mess once the bears got ahold of it.

One of the cabins on my street advertises on Airbnb that there is river access for the guests and the home is not even on the river. It states, "The community boasts river access just a few houses down." One neighbor has put up a "No River Access" sign to help slow the random traffic. We do have an easement along the DeNonno's for the residents of Sky Lane. This was never intended for business owners to allow their guests to use. It runs right through the side of their house. It has been overrun with Airbnb folks. I have lived here for 20 years and never used that area. Pat DeNonno invited me back there last week and said we could use it, but you are literally in their yard if you do so. Last week, in one day, there were 8 young men, then a family of 6 and then an elderly couple back there...all in the same day. This is ridiculous! I know that the DeNonno's are getting really tired of this and have even tried to reach out to one of the owners. Some guests have gotten in their hammocks, gliders and chairs and just made themselves at home in their backyard. How do we change this easement to be for residents/owners only? This needs to happen immediately, if possible.

I was told last week that they Airbnb homes should not be operating right now. When my daughter, who cleans one of the Sky Lane homes, let the owner know that that was the case, they stated that they received a letter from the Town saying it was ok to do so. I called Town Hall and spoke to a Council member to verify and that is not the case. She gave that message to the owner and they then stated that they called King County and they told them that it was ok to go ahead and run their business.

I have two STRs next door to me and luckily, I have the owner's phone number. Two weeks ago, his water main broke and was flooding the driveway. The renters told the town to just leave the water on because they needed it. When I called the owner, he came out as soon as possible to fix the problem but lost the renter for that day.

This has been very frustrating, to say the least. Sky Lane is no longer a quiet, peaceful community. We now have at least 5 homes on our street being utilized for STRs. I realize that it is hard to enforce rules set forth and that we do not have law enforcement readily available, but we need to figure out a better solution to the problems we are facing. It would be nice if we could put a limit on future rentals, perhaps have the owners have someone local that could come take care of the trash issues right away, and at the very least have a quicker way to get ahold of owners when there are loud parties or overcrowded with parking (especially in the winter when there is snow plowing needing to be done). It would be especially nice to NOT advertise that there is river access for business owners when it was never intended to be used for that purpose.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that we can all come up with better solutions for our town. It would be nice to bring some actual families in before we lose it all to STRs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeLana Slone", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DeLana Slone
540 Sky Lane
425-760-4154