Hello Richmond Civic & Commerce Members,

We, the Richmond Civic & Commerce board, are informing you, that a small group of residents living south of Richmond, on the Chain of Lakes, are creating waves pertaining to short-term rentals (STRs). They want to eliminate all STRs. According to www.airdna.co, there are 32 STRs in the Richmond area.

***What are STRs?***

STRs can be found through AirBnB or VRBO, providing an easy way to find home-like lodging for a vacation get-away. This concerned group has been very vocal at area township board meetings – so much, they have convinced Sauk Rapids Township not to allow any STRs in their township.

***Why are STRs important to our area?***

• Provide tax dollars through property re-classification & sales tax.

* Provide lodging since there aren’t many motels/hotels.
* Tourism dollars are spent in our community.
* Visitors may decide to relocate here because what our community has to offer.

***Why is this group concerned about STRs?***

* Not knowing who the tourists are which may be next door to them.
* Concerned of their property if a STR is near.
* STRs need more regulations/ordinances.

Joe DeRose, owner of Riverside Resort, has been attending area township board meetings and single-handling this issue, but is looking for more support from area business’. He knows STRs are in straight competition with his own business, but realizes there’s much more at stake.

STRs are vital to our local economy. These tourists come here to stay, play, dine out as well as buy groceries, liquor, gas, gifts, equipment rentals, and attend local events.

***How can you help support STRs?***

* Email a letter of support to Joe DeRose; your township: and cc Stearns County.
* Attached is a draft for your use/reference and here are your township contacts:
* Munson Township meeting link HERE - next board meeting is June 20th

 **munsontownship@gmail.com**

* Wakefield Township meeting link HERE - next planning meeting June 28th

  **wakefieldtownship@outlook.com**

* Maine Prairie Township meeting link HERE - meetings look like the 2nd Tuesday of each month. **clerk.mpt@meltel.net**
* Eden LakeTownship meeting link HERE - meet on the 2nd & last Tuesday of each
* month. **edenlaketwp@meltel.net**

**Joe DeRose’s email: riverside@midco.net**

**Stearns County Environmental Services: chelle.benson@co.stearns.mn.us**

Stearns County is starting the process to review the rules and regulations for Vacation/Private Home Rentals, also known as short-term rentals. Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on August 2. Written testimony must be submitted by July 25th.

Written testimony received after this date will be summarized at the public hearing.

According to the Stearns County website under Short-Term Rentals, May 31, 2022:

*“At this time, due to the in-place moratoriums established by Eden Lake, Maine Prairie, Munson and Wakefield Townships, lodging licenses cannot be issued for new short-term rentals in these townships until the moratoriums are lifted or expire. Sauk Centre Township does not allow short-term rentals in certain zoning districts.”*

For more information on how the state regulates STRs:

https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/guide/sales-residential-short-term-rentals