

RECEIVED ON: October 8, 2024

Council Meeting: 10/22/2024
Agenda Item No: 10

From: Beth Camarco <bethellene@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 6:37 PM

To: Beth Wheeler <bethellene@yahoo.com>

Cc: Bob Wheeler <rwheeler1952@gmail.com>

Subject: Comments on STR Ordinance and Issues

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My name is Robert Wheeler. My wife Beth and I live on Carinthia Drive in the Starlight Estates neighborhood. I am writing to express our strong opposition to short-term rentals (STRs) in our neighborhood. There are currently several STRs in the area, and they have already caused significant safety and nuisance issues, including traffic congestion, noise disturbances, and a heightened risk of fire due to our location on the hillside. Our neighborhood is not designed to accommodate the influx of temporary guests who are unfamiliar with the dangers of the area, such as the ban on fireworks and the risk of wildfires from smoking outside. Additionally, there is only one way in and same way out. STRs in the Starlight Estates are a threat to the safety and quality of life of our community, and other communities in the area.

Although we do not have an STR next door, several people who attended a meeting with Council Member Octavio Martinez and Brian Saeki, have one or more STRs next door or near their homes. They described situations that we shouldn't have to live with: for example, people smoking cannabis so close to their homes that they can't sit outside or inside with windows open due the cannabis smell; others having large vehicles used by production companies blocking their driveways; and, even some filming that involved nudity. Fireworks are banned in Whittier, but this past July 4th, we could see fireworks nearby from our balcony. Some of these STRs seem to be evolving into event venues, as indicated by dozens of cars driving by our home, possibly heading to Mount Holly.

We have a vacation home in Big Bear, and there are several STRs. However, we receive a written letter each time a homeowner has an STR approved. We know the address and are instructed to call San Bernardino Code Enforcement if the STR rules, regarding number of vehicles, trash, number of occupants etc., are not being followed. We urge you to ban STRs on our hillside residential neighborhood. If the City Council does not ban them, then we request that you limit them strictly to "primary residence only" STRs with strong enforcement to ensure compliance. We also oppose any "grandfathering in" of current STRs, as this will only continue to harm our community. No exceptions should be made for anyone. Thank you for considering our concerns.
Robert Wheeler and Beth Camarco aka Beth Wheeler
12651 Carinthia Dr 90601

CC: CM; ACM; CA; Council; Original to CC; Public Binder; Department

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