

From: [C.Cole](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: Comments for STR meeting,
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Hello! this is Craig Cole,

And thank you for considering my perspective on the proposed short-term rental (STR) regulations in Whittier. I appreciate the council's effort to balance community needs with the benefits responsible STR operators bring to our city.

As a long-time Whittier resident, I have called this community home since 1998. At 76 years old and facing health challenges, the income from my STR is crucial for my financial stability and allows me to stay in the home I cherish.

Economic and Community Contributions

STRs play a vital role in Whittier's economy and community life, offering benefits beyond the property owners:

- **Local Jobs:** STR's support several local jobs, including gardeners, housekeepers, pest control professionals, HVAC technicians, Jacuzzi cleaners, plumbers, and maintenance workers. These jobs provide steady income to many local families.
- **Boosting Local Businesses:** Guests at STR's often shop at local stores, dine at nearby restaurants, and explore local attractions. Their spending boosts the vibrancy of our economy and increases sales tax revenue, benefiting the entire community.
- **Supporting Local Suppliers:** To maintain STR's to high standards, STR's regularly purchase supplies from local vendors. This ongoing demand helps sustain local businesses and ensures homes remain a welcoming space for visitors, reflecting well on Whittier.

Suggestions for Fair Regulation

While I understand the council's intent behind the proposed lottery system and six-month review process for STR licenses or Cap Limit, I respectfully offer the following suggestions to ensure regulations are fair and effective:

- **Prioritize Responsible Operators:**
- **Grandfathering Existing Hosts:** Please consider grandfathering in all current STR operators who have been legally and responsibly hosting. This would protect those who have already invested in our community.
- **Priority for Proven Track Records:** I suggest giving priority to operators

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with strong records, demonstrated by consistent 5-star reviews and positive guest feedback. This rewards those who maintain high standards and positively impact our local economy.

Consider Economic Impact: A six-month review process could create uncertainty for operators like myself who depend on STR income. A longer initial license period, such as one year, with reviews focused on compliance rather than frequent re-licensing, would be more stable and less of a burden for city staff.

Additional Recommendations

1. **Economic Benefits:**

- STR's support local businesses and create jobs for local service providers, contributing to Whittier's economic stability.

1. **Flexible Minimum Stays:**

- Suggesting allowing one-night stays from Monday through Thursday, excluding Friday and weekends. This flexibility during the weekdays would help maximize occupancy rates while minimizing potential disruptions, and it would also increase Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue, benefiting both owners and the local economy.

3. **TOT Collection:**

- Automating TOT collection through platforms like Airbnb and VRBO could streamline the process for both the City and Hosts.

Thank you,

Craig Cole

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