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Council Meeting: 12/10/2024

Agenda Item No: 13.A

From: cathymiyacat@aol.com <cathymiyacat@aol.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 10:46 AM

To: Brian Saeki <bsaeki@cityofwhittier.org>

Subject: Short-term rentals in Whittier

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To Mr. Brian Saeki,

My personal perspective follows:

The homeowner across the street, from our house at 6262 Southwind Drive, has turned his home into a commercial short-term business.

This is just 1 of many problems that we have encountered because of his STR. He has promised several times that he will move his camping trailer off of his driveway to allow for more parking. By having the trailer there his renters can barely park 1 car on the driveway and it could easily hold 3 cars if the trailer were moved. I have pictures of several cars, 5 to 10 cars at a time on the street from the renters, even parking illegally in the middle of the street with no driver inside. He should store the trailer in a local RV parking lot. It's been parked there and has not been moved or used since it arrived. My neighborhood unfortunately does not have an HOA, so legally he can leave it there. Southwind is not his primary residence anymore, despite what he says. He doesn't have to look at all the cars all the time because he lives in another city. Of course, street parking is public property. They have a 2-car garage that they use for storage and have never used the garage for cars since they have owned the home as of 5 years ago.

He had parking issue disagreements with his next door neighbor over the years, also.

The lovely ambience of our surroundings have definitely been changed because his house is directly across the street.

Our neighborhood is in a high-fire zone area. it seems very risky to allow STRs here. Always random people, random numerous cars. It's a 24-hour hotel at times in a quiet neighborhood.

My hope for the future of the City of Whittier on STR business is that they should not even be allowed. STRs are always going to have problems, so why allow them in the first place?

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

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STRs take away revenue from nice hotels that are in Whittier that are in the hospitality business. Hotels pay their fair-share of taxes to the City, State and Federal Government.

About a month ago there were so many cars up and down the street. I asked his renters to please give us at least 1 parking spot in front of our house so that my 102 year old mother-in-law and my son could come to dinner. The response from the renter was "It's public parking." That was so discourteous. The renters don't care. My questions is, why should my family and friends be inconvenienced and have to walk up and down the hill? My mother-in-law is permanently in a wheel chair. I called the owner and explained the situation. He, that time, did accommodate.

We have lived in our beautiful home for 35 years, this next April. We are seniors. We maintain our home perfectly inside and out. In fact, the owner told me one reason he bought his house across the street was because of our "curb appeal."

It's just a crummy situation all around and personally I foresee many problems with STRs and especially with absentee owners.

Most sincerely and thank you for considering the issues with STRs.

Cathy Miyasaki