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Subject: STR FINAL DECISIONS

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We are Ron and Patricia Olson, Whittier residents for 26 years, Whittier business owners for 21 years, Whittier housing providers for 26 years and Whittier STR hosts for 8 years and 4 years.

Apparently this will be our last remaining chance to advocate for our property rights.

It's a hard nut to swallow when property rights that have always existed and that you have always enjoyed are to be taken away from you or restricted. We feel like it's anti-American.

Fighting for property rights is as American as apple pie. This is our fight.

We do appreciate our city Mayor, city council and staff and all of the hard work that they have put into the STR issues. We appreciate having been heard by you all and the considerations that have been given. We have gained a new appreciation for you all in the process, having witnessed first hand, to our shock, how our city officials are treated by some. You all have our deep respect for that.

Our final plea is to ask that you all reconsider the proposed "linear rule", as I refer to it, for lack of a better term. 300 feet, 500 feet, 1000 feet. Why? Where does this come from? What is the wisdom behind it? Was there some situation that proved that one STR within 300 feet of another had been problematic?

Most properties in Whittier are not well suited for STR's. Maybe a property that is well suited for an STR is within 300 feet of another. What makes that a problem that calls for this restriction? Does the restriction solve some specific problem? Or is the restriction just one person's thought? "Hey, here's an idea"? Is it a good idea that solves a real problem? What IS the justification?

Paty and I have a multi-unit property here in Whittier (8 units).

We operate two STR's at our property.

Our courtyard has 6 cottages in a central courtyard, situated in a semi-circle around a sparkling pool.

There is no other property like ours in the city of Whittier.

The property is very well suited for STR's, in fact, you might say that is is perfect for STR's. The layout and courtyard makes it appear very much like a resort.

In addition to our courtyard of 6 cottages, we have what we refer to as the "main house" on our property in which Patricia and I reside. We also have our 7th cottage which is not in the courtyard, it is behind our main house and my Mother, Patricia (I have two Patricia's) lives there (See our "Lavanderia De Las Dos Patricia's in the attachment).

We rent two of our cottages as STR's, our first cottage in the courtyard and our last cottage in our courtyard.

There is about 150 feet or so in between the two of them. How is that a problem?

Our first cottage of eight years has a nautical theme. We call it the "Pacific cottage". We are hosting our 532nd family as of today.

Our second cottage of four years is not quite as nautical as our Pacific cottage but the color scheme inclined us to call it "Atlantic cottage". We are currently hosting our 379th family.

That is 911 hosting's in a span of 8 years.

For four years we have hosted 379 families in our Atlantic cottage while hosting a total of two cottages that are within 150 feet of each other, and neither the city of Whittier nor the Whittier police department nor even one of our neighbors (we have 10 neighboring properties adjacent to ours) are even aware of the existence of our two STR's. That is because we have never had an incident that called the attention of the city of Whittier, Whittier police or neighbors.

Is there a call for a 300, 500, or 1,000 feet restriction here on this multiple unit property with that record?

We also have four long term tenancies in the same courtyard and in all of these years and all of those hosting's, would you believe that we have not had so much as even one complaint from our long term tenants? Think about that. Not as much as one. These tenants live within 25 feet, 75, 100 feet of not just one STR but two STR's and not one complaint. Does that call for a 300, 500 or 1,000 feet restriction?

You see, it is not how many feet that you have in between STR rentals, it's how well an STR is managed. It's how well an STR owner is engaged with their guests. It's about how much pride an STR host takes in their STR. It's about STR owners that live right here in Whittier and are on top of their STR business and involved. It's all about the STR operator themselves.

We respectfully request that a linear restriction, whether they be 300 feet or more or less be removed from consideration as this type of restriction has no merit. Paty and my two STR's are proof of that.

Look to your permitting process to eliminate any problematic STR's in Whittier. Look at the denial of a permit renewal as your tool to eliminate the bad players and please, shy away from restrictive "ideas" that have no merit such as linear restrictions of hundreds of feet.

Paty and I have invested a great deal in our two STR cottages, not just in money but in time and love. We take great pride in every detail. We enjoy it to a very great extent. We continuously add to and upgrade our cottages. It is our business and also our hobby and a source of fun for us as well.

Our reviews are stellar. We are closing in on a thousand hosting's and they are coming from absolutely every continent and country on this planet.

Let them come. Let us continue to invite them and to host them. Let us continue to provide cakes for our guests celebrating their birthdays in Sunny Southern California and balloons for those celebrating their anniversaries and those that are here on their Southern California honeymoons. Let their children swim in our pool and let them lay out on our pool deck in the Sun. Let them continue to grill their favorite foods on our two built-in BBQ's. Let us continue to surprise them in our pool area with Haggen Dazs ice creams and bring their children pool toys and rafts to enjoy while they swim and enjoy our pool. Let us continue to provide bouquets of red roses for those families that have traveled across the globe to lay their loved ones to rest at Rose Hills. Let them come.

We have an incredible place for them here in this incredible city of Whittier and we welcome each and everyone of them of all colors, races, creeds and sexual orientation. All are welcome here and warmly received without exception or restriction. Allow them to come. Do not restrict us to only one STR with the linear restriction. Do not restrict any of us STR hosts that have shown great responsibility and a willingness to cooperate and improve.

Poor STR hosts in Whittier are few. Wonderful, attentive and responsible STR hosts should be recognized.

Please do not restrict us. Use the 6 months permit as your tool to eliminate poor STR hosts and properties by disallowing them a renewal of their permit. It won't take long before the city is free of problems, complaints and police calls to irresponsible STR properties.

I have much more to say but I believe that I have said all that you all can stand to read at this point.

Many of us our seemingly fighting for our lives here, our right to exist. Many of us are panicked. You have met many of us during this fight. The ones that you haven't met, are the ones who are problematic STR hosts and were too ashamed to show their faces at the many city meetings that us good STR hosts attended.

Please vacate the possibility of a linear restriction.

Humbly and Respectfully yours,
Ron and Patricia Olson
6022 Palm Ave
Whittier