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Cc: [Marcia Walker](#); [lakecreeklakester@gmail.com](#)
Subject: Tonight's City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 7:48:30 PM

Dear Concerned Members, Participants, City Council Members, Council Amanda Breen, and Mayer Bradshaw,

I Zoom joined tonight's City Council meeting and deeply appreciate both that generous opportunity, and the serious efforts by all parties to fairly address the issues at hand. It only took half an hour to get through the preliminary business and first few Action Items. By shortly after 4:30 we were onto item 16 - the public hearing on the new STR ordinance.

The discussions were interesting and informative. I was tempted many times to "raise my hand" (zoom-wise) and ask: "If my STR becomes a long term rental (LTR), do the fire sprinklers in the proposal just go away?" That is, do we care about the "health and safety" only of STR renters? I kept expecting someone to address that big old elephant in the room but it seemed to be continually skirted. Not that I don't have some reference on this kind of business. If you pay for a ride in an airplane, you're afforded a LOT more regulatory safety measures than if you're just taking yourself up. But it's never delineated based on the length of the ride. If you take someone up for a quick ride verses a long ride... That would be very arbitrary and capricious.

Time and again, while proponents stressed this was all about universal safety for all occupants in Ketchum's rental units, it seemed obvious it wasn't.. It seemed more about turning STR units into LTR units for the good of workers in the community. The one question never addressed was: "if my STR becomes a LTR, are there similar safety measures that must be engaged?" I never got an answer but I think I know.

If you don't know Amanda Breen, Ketchum's legal Council, you should. I don't know her political proclivities but I can tell you she seemed intelligent and un-impressed by the "flow" of the council. I don't mean to cast a shadow on the proceedings. Mayor Bradshaw and the various board members seemed to proceed with singular, rationale thought. But, it's probably mainly due to her input that there was no first reading tonight. More than one person tried to lobby that a first reading was harmless and problems could be ironed out later. I think the first reading being stopped tonight was a major victory for us.

One of the things the Council wants is a Ketchum business license to ensure tax collection and compliance with city ordinances. I'll be checking with AirBnb tomorrow as they assured us they paid all local, city, and state taxes. We'll be very upset if we learn they weren't paying Ketchum. We DO NOT shirk our taxes and will happily, with interest and penalties, pay Ketchum back taxes if we learn otherwise. While we're not Idaho residents, we're huge Idaho fans!

We're not "bad guys". We're also not rich guys. We can't possibly afford a "second home" in Ketchum if our ability to rent is eliminated. We'll simply sell to the highest bidder. They won't be in our financial league and I'm sure they'll be no friend to local labor and those looking for low income housing.

Sincerely,

Andy and Marcia Walker
Wildwood #24

