

To whom it may concern

I Christopher Arnold & Yi chen Lo of 207 Lowercliff Drive Kelleys Island OH 43438 would like to address some issues that are occurring In the Village of Kelleys Island Ohio pertaining to Short term rentals and the effort to Control them that are extreme. The first thing that comes to mind is the High license fee of \$600 per year to have the right to rent your own home. It is the highest amount that I have heard of in the state. The fee doesnt include a saftey inspection or septic inspection. Both of these items must be paid for by the STR owner. These fees are roughly \$300 to \$400 each adding to the cost of operating a STR business. So each STR owner is looking at roughly \$1400 to operate in the first year and then pay again every third year of operation. I do feel a safety inspection is a great idea but once its done i dont see the need to have it done every three years.

I feel that STR owners should pay exactly what other business owners pay on the Island to conduct business. The bars, stores ect pay \$75 a year for a business license. STR owners have to pay 8 times this amount at \$600

In the law they state they have the right to inspect a house at any time to make sure we are in compliance with all the laws. It is in the copies of the Kelleys Island Law that passed in Dec 2024 I feel this is a clear violation of my rights as a home owner. Once the safety inspection is done (I agree on saftey inspections) there is no need to have random / at will inspections of a home.

Another part of the Village's law is that if a call for police (was any call for emegency services / fire or EMS) 3 times in one calendar year would close the STR for a one year period for being a public nuisance. They still have this in effect but altered this in Dec 2024 to say that the STR owner would have to go before the BZA or a newly created board to appeal the closure. In public BZA meetings the Mayor, head of zoning, a council member and 3 BZA board members all made comments that they do not like STR on the island. So a STR owner really wont be getting a fair appeal in my opinion. Also, the downtown bars / restaurants doing business on the island get 3 or more calls for police, EMS fire dept almost weekly and there are NO laws on the books for their public nuisance. This can be used to potentially "target" owners deemed a nuisance by the village or a neighbor. Before the law was passed the Land Owners Assciation tried to mediate a meetng between our group and the Village / Mayor. It was asked three different times with each response being " Not at this time" " maybe after the law is in place". There were NO public comment meeting or townhall meetings. The village did not ask a single STR owner for advice or comments on the proposed new laws.

A referendum was started and we received over 10% of Kelleys Island Voters to put these laws on the ballet for 2025 election. Because of a technical error in paper work the Board Of Elections in Erie county disqualified the paperwork because 1 box wasnt

filled in stating how many signatures where on the sheet. The residents understand that Kelleys Island IS a tourist attraction and destination and many work with STRs within their own business directly or indirectly. So it seems the will of the voters of Kelleys Island was also not heard.

My wife and I own 4 rentals. We very proud of them. Its a small family business that we created. We built them brand new. We offer luxury and many amenities. We pay property taxes and the county and local taxes. We have put our lives into them. We build them, maintain them and run them, WE have rules and guidelines for our guests. I have had only 1 call of safety services to any one of Our rentals in the last 15 years. (EMS call).

It seems that the laws are passed for public safety. If this is the case why are not ALL houses required to have a septic inspection and safety inspections like the STRs ? Is the health of other houses / people not that important? These laws were put forward by the village for this reason. Also in our local paper in May of 2024 the Mayor of Kelleys Island put in his monthly article that the need to limit building and rentals bcause ot was causing home prices to sky rocket causing a burden on residents and elderly. The price of Housing all over the country has sky rocketed and Kelleys Island isnt any different.

Our opinion is that we are being targeted as a STR by the village with these new laws/the zoning Dept and not being treated fairly with other places of business on the island or other non STR homes that have septic systems and should also be made to conform to the safety each STR is expected to uphold.

Thank you
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