

THERESE DUNPHY

Mayor

SEAN M. HOUSLEY, CPA

Clerk-Treasurer

MARK W. LIPAN

Director of Public Service

STEVE JUSTICE

Chief of Police

PATRICIA AMBROSE RUBRIGHT

Director of Law



VILLAGE OF
SILVER LAKE

Established 1918

SILVER LAKE VILLAGE HALL

2961 Kent Road
Silver Lake, Ohio 44224-3027

Phone 330-923-5233

POLICE

Non-Emergency 330-929-8771

Phone 330-928-7573

Fax 330-923-6965

www.villageofsilverlake.com

Senators,

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 104. For the past year, the village of Silver Lake has been deliberating on how to address the issue of Airbnbs and other short-term rentals.

As a small community bordered by two private lakes and a river, Silver Lake is a beautiful place to live, boasting a home ownership rate of 92 percent. While our picturesque setting could attract short-term rental market investors, this is fundamentally at odds with the interests of our residents for several reasons:

1. **Undermining Neighborhood Feel:** The presence of short-term rentals would erode the close-knit, community-oriented atmosphere of our village.
2. **Impact on Property Rights:** Our residents purchase homes in an upscale residential area with the expectation of knowing their neighbors. An Airbnb essentially functions as a transient hotel, disrupting this expectation.
3. **Zoning Consistency:** The village currently has only two non-conforming, grandfathered businesses. The rest of our zoning is residential, park, or institutional. We value this mix as it preserves the bucolic nature of our community.
4. **Increase in Crime:** Research from Northeastern University, based on 911 calls and Airbnb listings from 2011-2018, found that violent crimes, including fights, robberies, and reports of someone wielding a knife, tended to increase in neighborhoods a year or more after the number of Airbnbs increased. Researchers attributed this to the "changing social fabric of the neighborhood." Additionally, Detective Burt Johnson of the Silver Lake Police Department, who liaises with the Summit County Drug Unit, informed me of a case where an Airbnb was used as an address to ship drugs. This is clearly contrary to our community's interests.

Local governments understand their communities best, which is why we have authority over local zoning. Any legislation that undermines local control would hinder our ability to serve our communities effectively. I urge you to reject SB 104. If you have any questions or concerns, I am more than willing to discuss them with you.

Therese Dunphy
Mayor, Silver Lake