

City Clerk Staff

From: Robin Abeshaus <robinabeshaus@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2023 3:56 PM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Registration Fees for Short Term Rentals

Dear Missoula City Council Members,

I am writing to encourage you to increase registration fees on tourist homes/short term rentals. As I believe we all agree, there is a housing crisis in Missoula. In addition to the large number of people experiencing houselessness, many of the people who work in Missoula (or would like to work in Missoula) cannot afford to live here. This greatly impacts the diversity of our city and the commitment to community that has been a part of Missoula for much of its history.

A quick look at the Airbnb website shows a significant number of apartments and homes available in Missoula. These spaces offer 'privacy', 'your own door code', etc. — things that indicate a private residence — a residence that could house someone who lives and works in Missoula rather than being rented out to tourists and visitors. The Vrbo website also lists a number of Missoula locations — Vrbo sites are, by definition, private spaces for guests to enjoy — again, spaces that are reserved for Vrbo residences are not available for Missoulians to live in.

I would like to see the number of tourist homes in Missoula decrease and the number of housing units for Missoulians increase. I encourage City Council to use whatever tools you have to help make this happen. I believe that increasing the tourist home registration fee is one such tool.

Thank you.

Robin Abeshaus

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