



PRESS RELEASE

City of South Haven

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Local Media

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CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS ORDINANCE FOR SHORT-TERM RENTAL AMENDMENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – (South Haven, Michigan) South Haven City Council adopted amendments to the short-term rental registration ordinance at their July 16, 2018 meeting to include attached condos and changed the one-time registration fee to an annual renewal. City Council also approved a resolution setting the short-term rental fee schedule.

Prior to last night's meeting, the City's short-term rental ordinance excluded attached condo units which meant condos could be rented on a short-term basis without registering with the City nor paying the applicable registration fees. Condo units were also not subject to inspection requirements nor maximum-occupancy caps. Although Council initially considered that condo units were not related to the complaints regarding short-term rentals in single-family neighborhoods, circumstances arose for considering an amendment for their inclusion.

One of the reasons for reconsideration was the incomplete statistics regarding the number of short-term rental activity within the City. Without a good method to identify condo units rented on a short-term basis, the overall increase or decrease in rental activity could not be tracked. Further, there existed a disparity in treatment between condos and other dwelling units as the owners of condos could rent without paying the same fees nor following the same safety and fire code regulations as other short-term dwelling owners.

The short-term rental fees were established to provide revenue to cover the cost of providing rental registration services and increased building capacity request applications. While this

revenue assisted in offsetting the City's expenses in creating the short-term rental program, revenues began to decline due to enforcement and administration expenses continuing to incur. Continuing expenses include the cost of inspections, the cost of additional enforcement personnel during the summer, inspection program, and staff and attorney time devoted to addressing short-term rental issues. City Council approved renewal fees to be set at \$200 while first time application fees to be set at \$250 to cover the initial inspection prior to permit issuance.

The ordinance will take effect 10 days after its adoption or upon publication of the notice of adoption, whichever occurs later.

For more information, contact Kate Hosier, Assistant City Manager, at 269-637-0775 or via email, khosier@south-haven.com.

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