

Good morning Mayor Goodman and members of the Council. My name is Rae Lathrop and I'm speaking on behalf of Nevadans for the Common Good regarding item 49 on today's agenda.

My neighborhood along with 4 other neighborhood associations located in downtown Las Vegas, have been a member of NCG for 3 years. Nevadans for the Common Good (NCG) is a broad-based community organization with 40 institutional members across Southern Nevada. Over the past several months, we've conducted numerous workshops on housing concerns, walked neighborhoods in various parts of the valley, including in the downtown south neighborhoods and the historic westside, and held 3 large community meetings with County Commissioners and Councilwoman Diaz with over 250 attendees. We've heard countless stories related to the lack of affordable housing, tenants' protection, and the impact of short-term vacation rentals on access to housing and neighborhood quality of life.

The proliferation of uncontrolled vacation rentals is linked to the tightening housing market - in the downtown neighborhood, there are multiple apartment complexes that are entirely available for vacation rentals only. The units should be available for teachers, nurses, grandparents, and students.

Nevadans for the Common Good support the changes being proposed to the existing STR ordinance on your agenda today. Specifically, we agree that:

- the licensing of "accommodation facilitators" will be an important step in holding the online platforms accountable for their role in facilitating potentially illegal and harmful businesses.
- We believe that this new provision will be the most powerful tool to limit non-compliant homeowners.
- Additionally, The associated reporting requirements will ensure that short-term rental businesses can be enforced to a degree that the city has lacked in previous iterations of this ordinance
- We also affirm the City's leadership in maintaining the owner-occupied requirement within the licensing process. This requirement ensures that our homes are first available to long-term residents and allows for residents to host visitors without removing housing stock from our community. For the long-term health of our economy and community, retaining existing housing stock for residents should remain a priority when considering regulations on short-term rentals.

We hope all these provisions remain in the final version of the ordinance.

Nevadans for the Common Good, all of our members including our neighborhoods, nonprofits, and congregations, are committed to continuing to work with City of Las Vegas staff and officials as this ordinance is implemented and enforcement is strengthened.

Submitted at City Council

Date 6/15/22 Item 49

By: Rae Lathrop