

re: 845 College Avenue

Alison Banks

From: Sharon Delawder <shard3law@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 8:54 AM
To: Alison Banks
Subject: Ernie and Katrina Didot Special Use Permit

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of my long time neighbors, Ernie and Katrina Didot, and their request for a special use permit to operate an Airbnb.

My husband and I have lived at 833 College Avenue since 1987. Ernie and Katrina have been our neighbors since moving into the house adjacent to ours about 15 years ago. They have been a tremendous asset to our neighborhood and our larger community as well. Running a successful business, organizing block parties, Christmas and New Year's get-togethers, and being caring, responsible people of the highest character are just some of the reasons we are proud to have them as neighbors.

I understand the permit has been recommended to be denied because it is thought to be potentially more disruptive to the neighborhood than long term rentals. Since September 2018, they have been operating the Airbnb and we have not experienced or witnessed any problems whatsoever.

As a matter of fact, it's the long term rental units near us (not the Didot's) that have been somewhat problematic. Directly behind our house is a single family home with 2 basement apartments. When past or current owners were living in the house while renting out the apartments, there were no issues.

But in recent years, the homeowners are no longer in residence and there have been problems such as loud parties, neglected landscaping and even drug dealing. Also, the current tenants have 3 pitbulls!

In my opinion, if minimizing disruption to neighborhoods is a goal, stop allowing homeowners to rent a single family home as an apartment building (they're not living in).

I would be very happy if the Didots' permit is approved. I know they will operate their business responsibly with respect for the neighborhood and the community. And only enhance Harrisonburg's reputation as the friendly city!

Best Regards,

Sharon Delawder