

Thanh Dang

From: JILL GLICK <jill.glick.151@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 3:39 PM
To: Thanh Dang
Subject: [BULK] SPECIAL USE PERMIT - NEW YORK AVE/PC MEETING 10/9
Importance: Low

Planning Commission Members:

My name is Jill Glick. I am not a city resident. I live in Augusta County. I work in Harrisonburg and have for 36 years.

I have attended your meetings the past several months in support of my brother Wes Smallwood. While there are several issues I could clarify, there are two I have decided to write you about. Both issues were discussed last night and reported today in the DN-R.

From today's DNR:

Finks took issue with Evolve Vacation Rentals managing the property.

"What makes [Smallwood and Jones] the operators when they aren't doing the work and aren't involved?" he asked, in regards to cleaning, handling guests and advertising.

AND...

"Staff later found that Smallwood and Jones were still using the property for short-term rentals without a permit, in violation of rules that went into effect on Aug. 1, and they were fined \$100."

My brother is actually quite "involved." And, he has been since the purchase and well thought out/well planned renovation of the house. And, he does clean the house actually. After any guest stay, he does clean and literally removes all the linens himself (and you are aware of how many bedrooms are in the house.....linens are cleaned whether one bedroom was used or multiple rooms were used). And....he then takes them to a local laundry service in HARRISONBURG (supporting local small business and helping them thrive so the City has a thriving commerce infrastructure). He returns to the home and prepares rooms as needed. Wes takes extreme pride in the home's reno, decor, landscaping, home maintenance, and yes, cleaning of the home. To say he and Dionne Jones aren't "doing the work" or "aren't involved" is a clear indication of a grave misunderstanding on the part of the Planning Commission. If there is one misunderstanding this basic, one must wonder what other misconceptions on the part of PC exist.

I realize the "violation" and subsequent fine is also a paramount issue. As Ms. Jones tried to explain, there is a difference in the listing on Air BNB versus the ability to BOOK on Air BNB. (I recently found this out when looking personally for Air BNB rentals for vacation in NC.) I have watched as PC and Council hyper-focused on the violation and what they consider a conscious decision on Wes and Ms. Jones' part to continue with the August rental, violating rules in place. In my mind, I have to liken the violation to the situation of speeding. You are supposed to pick up your child from soccer, tutoring, etc. Your meeting at the office ran late. Finally, you get out of the office and are on your way. You consciously decide to drive 60 or even 65 instead of the posted 55. And you get a ticket. Is your license revoked?