

September 25, 2019

Re: B&B Ordinance

Dear Members of the Durham Planning Board,

I strongly support the proposed B & B ordinance. As a college town, it is critical that we get ahead of this lucrative and potentially damaging trend to buy up properties as investments and rent them as Air B & B's. In our ongoing efforts to protect the character of our downtown neighborhoods, it is refreshing to see Durham act in a forward-thinking manner, before too many more of these entities are established.

Given the potential negative impact to neighborhoods, my initial reaction would have been not to permit Air B & B's in any residential area. However, I do think the approach this ordinance takes using SE is thoughtful and appropriate in tandem with the stated requirements.

One point of clarification, under H. item #5: "The property owner must be on the premises while the property is rented." I would like to see this language clarified. Does it mean the owner must be on the property when a contract is signed? Or that the owner must be on the property during the rental period? I hope it is the latter, but I think the current language could be misinterpreted. I would like to suggest: The property owner must be on the premises during the period of time the property is being rented.

Sincerely,

Beth Olshansky