



Beth Neufeld <bethneufeld1153@gmail.com>

New Tax - City Counsel Meeting 6/5/18

Sarah Challman <srchallman@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 4, 2018 at 8:59 PM

To: Beth Neufeld <bethneufeld1153@gmail.com>

Cc: Second Street <2ndstreetcottages@gmail.com>, Val Bachmayer <relax@ashlandguestcottages.com>, Lois Van Aken <vanaken@mtashland.net>, Corinne Lombardi <ashlandvacationrentals@msn.com>, Ashland Main Street Inn <amsinn@jeffnet.org>, Ben Bryan <benjamin.bryan@gmail.com>

I'm concerned about all of this as well. Unfortunately I have to teach tomorrow and then have things going on tomorrow night so can't make the meeting.

My two cents: It isn't that I even mind the increase too much, but this implementation of it is absolutely ridiculous. Why can't they do it during the off season and not worry about the reservations already made?? Thanks for at least discussing this, all. I'm sorry I can't be there in person, but greatly appreciate anyone who is able to go.

Sarah

On Jun 4, 2018, at 8:48 PM, Beth Neufeld <bethneufeld1153@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

City Council/June 5, 2018

Beth Newfeld

My name is , owner of the 1900 Guest Houses, a vacation rentals. I am one of the silent majority....still working and on medicare. I do not own my vacation rentals, I lease them. This is my livelihood. My concerns is the costs increase we are putting on the tourist industry. We have a meal tax, OSF increased ticket fees, and now the consideration of the transient tax increase. There may be a point where people may go elsewhere to experience a charming small town with its specialties.

I am concerned about the future tourist industry here in Ashland - I am passionate about this industry, but how far can we go with increased costs!

Cell # 541-821-4287



Beth Neufeld <bethneufeld1153@gmail.com>

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Lois VanAken <vanaken@mtashland.net>

Tue, Jun 5, 2018 at 8:47 AM

To: Second Street <2ndstreetcottages@gmail.com>

Cc: Val Ashland Guest Cottages <relax@ashlandguestcottages.com>, Corinne Lombardi <ashlandvacationrentals@msn.com>, Beth Neufeld <bethneufeld1153@gmail.com>, Ashland Lynn Main Street Inn <amsinn@jeffnet.org>, Ben Bryan <benjamin.bryan@gmail.com>, Sarah Challman <srchallman@gmail.com>

Hi all,

It would be good for at least a few of us to attend and voice concerns. I have a another political type meeting to attend to tonight already so I can not go.

It would be an ideal opportunity to also voice concerns that the city needs to keep on top of illegal operations that do not collect and remit TOT.

They have a responsibility to tax payers, guests and legit business owners to uphold their own laws.

Lois

[Quoted text hidden]

Expressing concern about proposed TOT increase beginning July 1, 2018. I own and manage a legal vacation rental property in down town Oakland. Three years ago there were 130 available vacation rentals in Oakland; today there are over 300 hotels on Airbnb - many of these are "illegal," operating without proper licensing, overnight and certainly not contributing to TOT. The city has failed to enforce compliance & the tourists are often being ripped off. Tourists have expressed to me that after many years of coming annually to Oakland, increased crime, the transient activity, and feeling that they are carrying the unfair load of city taxes, they no longer want to come here.

My own revenue is way down from last year as many guests can find much cheaper accommodations from residents not in compliance. This increase is not even going to support these issues & the business owners who are dedicated to doing it right & and being in compliance. If you must raise the tax it should at least benefit the tourist industry here - the backbone of the community.

Crime, homeless, etc. will drive away the business - continually trying on guests while allowing their experience here to continually diminish is killing the goose laying the golden egg -

Thank you!

