

To: Ashland Planning Commissioners

As Ashland residents who live in a community zoned R-1 for single families and who have had the unfortunate experience of discovering shortly after we moved into our new home in 2010 that our next door neighbor was illegally operating a vacation rental, both my wife and I are strongly opposed to allowing traveler's accommodations in R-1 single family zones.

We purchased our home expecting that we would get to know our neighbors in a community with long-term residents. We would not have purchased the home if we had known that large numbers of strangers would be coming and going right next door for most of the year. With support from the City Planning Office and our homeowner's association, our neighbor was persuaded to cease short-term rentals. Now we discover the City Planning Commission is considering recommending a change to R-1 zoning that would allow our neighbor to resume that activity.

We believe such a change would basically destroy the concept of single family residential areas in Ashland. The Planning Commission and the City Council need to uphold the existing R-1 zoning laws that promote and encourage a suitable environment for family life and maintain property values. The City of Ashland should not break faith with those residents that paid the price to live in a neighborhood of single families.

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