Deb Graber

From: Wendy
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 3:18 PM
To: Deb Graber
Subject: FW: Support of STRs in Whitewater Township

Got this one?

Wendy Hoeksema
Whitewater Township Clerk
Ph (231)267-5141 ext 24
Fax(231)267-9020
5777 Vinton Rd
PO Box 159
Williamsburg MI 49690
clerk@whitewatertownship.org
*NOTE*new address of clerk@whitewatertownshipmi.gov

From: Gabby Seekell <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 12:01 PM
To: Wendy <clerk@whitewatertownshipmi.gov>
Subject: Support of STRs in Whitewater Township

Hi there -

I am writing to comment in support of the upcoming consideration of allowing Short Term Rentals in Whitewater Township. Our family has had a positive experience renting responsibly and has shown how STRs can integrate smoothly into the community and be a great impact for supporting other local businesses in town.

I strongly believe that the opportunity to rent responsibly, within clear guidelines, is beneficial for the community and contributes positively to both residents and visitors.

Best,
Gabby

Fw: Public comment on short term rentals

From: Randy trustee01@whitewatertownshipmi.gov
To: Wendy clerk@whitewatertownshipmi.gov, Deb Graber zoning@whitewatertownshipmi.gov
Sent: Tuesday, August 26 at 4:00 PM

From: Linda Slopsema <supervisor@whitewatertownshipmi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 3:53 PM
Subject: FW: Public comment on short term rentals

Fyi – making sure you see this

Linda Slopsema
Supervisor, Whitewater Township
supervisor@whitewatertownshipmi.gov
(231)267-5141 ex 23

From: Linda Myler <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 1:12 PM
To: Linda Slopsema <supervisor@whitewatertownshipmi.gov>
Subject: Public comment on short term rentals

Hi
My name is Linda Myler and I am a resident at [redacted] Clearview Dr. in Whitewater Twp. I wanted to voice my concern regarding the proposed agenda item: Hearing # 1 – ZA Case #2025-3: Application for amending the Whitewater Township Zoning Ordinance – Proposed Short-Term Rental Ordinance. I am strongly against short term rentals in the township. I have personally experienced a short term rental on our street and the disruption it causes in our otherwise quiet neighborhood.

Overall, the majority of renters are no problem but on occasion can be disruptive and loud especially when renting for only a weekend. Please consider our voice as this proposal is brought forward.
Thank you for your time.
Linda

Linda Myler DNP, RN, CNE, CHSE-A
Professor School of Nursing
Co-Director Nursing and IPE Simulation
[redacted]
[redacted]

Deb Graber

From: Steven Holl <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 4:18 PM
To: Deb Graber
Subject: STR hearing

August 26, 2025. STR
Whitewater Planning/Zoning

Home is where the heart is. Our home is on the north shore of island lake a fifteen minute walk through these woods. My kids attended Woodland School kindergarten through eighth grade. When my six year old daughter wandered off and couldn't be found on her way home from school, a neighborhood search quickly formed. The Woodland cross country team ran the trails around the school calling her name. As darkness fell the state police were called in with their K-9 team to find our little Grace. Grace was found sitting on the couch of our next door neighbors Max and Dorothy eating candy and watching tv. She was safe and the neighborhood had a good laugh and a new story to tell.

We know our neighbors and our neighbors know us. We know who we get along with, who we can count on, and who to avoid. Home is a special place.

At least once a week we get a glossy postcard in the mailbox telling me how easy it can be for some private equity firm to help me maximize a return on investment in the short term rental market. They will handle everything: the marketing, the reservations, the contracts, the cleaning and divvying up the money so we can take off for a month or a year or forever.
AirBandB, VRBO, private equity will turn our home into a commodity.
I understand the allure of short term rentals. It is enticing. We can get a mortgage payment in one weekend. We always have an appetite for more money. Think of what we could do. Think of what we could buy. Think of where we could go. I understand the desire of those wanting to set rules to allow short term rentals in Whitewater Township. I really do.
But make no mistake, if we go that route we will begin to undermine our neighborhoods, the bonds of community that can only be formed when people stay in a place for months and years. Private equity doesn't give a flying fig for our community. They exist only to commoditize and monetize. They are not good neighbors.

Homes are where we live our lives. Residential neighborhoods are zoned to encourage flourishing neighborhoods. If we want to allow commercial use we are fundamentally changing the zoning designation. That's what the proponents of strs are trying to do, even if they don't realize it. Our property rights are defined by zoning. To change R1 zoning to allow capture by private equity is a violation of our rights. We must defend our neighborhoods from commercialization.

Steven Holl
[redacted]HVD since 2011