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To: [clerk@villageofempire.com](mailto:clerk@villageofempire.com)  
Date: 04/05/2024 1:07 PM EDT  
Subject: Proposed Short Term Rental Ordinance

Dear Village Council and Short Term Rental Committee Members,

We support your proposed Village of Empire Short Term Rental Ordinance. The proposed ordinance starts with an excellent purpose statement. The Stated Purpose captures the message and intent of the Ordinance. It is summarized in Section 1 subsection C " To remain and grow as a year-round community, the Village has enacted the Ordinance to monitor and License STRs and strike a balance recognizing the interests of our Village residents, business owners, visitors and property owners." The Ordinance protects Short Term Rental Owners and Hosts and protects both the short and long term interest of the Empire community. We have to acknowledge as a society we need laws and local ordinances. We are a country that operates by Rule of Law. It has worked for us for almost 250 years and is there any other place we would like to live?

We live in a deeply divided society. We have deeply divided opinions on politics, social and religious opinions. It is evident here in Empire with Short Term Rentals. Our deeply held opinions cause us to withdraw from family, friends and neighbors. We try to champion our opinions at all costs. A better path is to listen to each side and work out a compromise. We believe this proposed Ordinance does this very well. It protects Short Term Rental owners and protects the Empire community. Let me highlight a few examples from the proposed Ordinance. It grandfatheres in all existing Short Term Rental owners. It clearly defines and articulates a process for this. It protects Host Owners who occupy the residence. They are not required to have a license. It prohibits events or parties which is a regulation Airbnb has had in effect since 2020 and has now been adopted by VRBO. It states that all lodging is to be inclusively within the dwelling not in a recreation vehicle, camper or tent. I encourage all interested parties to read this proposed Ordinance from the perspective of the opposite opinion and decide for yourself is this a good compromise? Lastly, we would like to thank the Council for addressing Short Term Rentals in Empire. Ordinances and laws governing Short Term Rentals exist globally, nationally and in hundreds of local communities. Airbnb lists hundreds of these on their site. Your actions reflect your commitment to all Village property owners and to the future of the Empire community.

Respectfully,  
Bill and Mary Blacquiere