

To: Councillors and Mayor of the City of Richmond Hill

From: Pat Pollock, Chairperson, Mayvern Area Residents Association

Re: Airbnb concerns

Attached please find the submission I made at the April 8, 2020 Council Meeting. Our position still holds true. However, on May 20 and 21, 2020 we have had a disruption of our neighbourhood by people who rented the Airbnb at 93 Mayvern Crescent. On BOTH nights a large group of people held parties, disrupting the neighbourhood with noise, drinking and drugs. After talking to neighbours on May 21 about the previous night's party, I notified Councillor Cilevitz and Tracey Steele about what occurred, and a By-law complaint file was initiated. I also told the neighbours what they should do if it happened again. On May 21st the same group held another party with even more guests, much more noise and much more parking on the streets. The neighbours phoned the police and guests were told to leave. However, they got in their cars and drove around the block and returned to the party. Many neighbours were concerned for their safety and for their children's safety especially since they did not feel that it was safe for their children to go outside in their own backyard to play with all of the commotion at 93 Mayvern.

On the morning of May 22, the police returned and when confronted, one of the men jumped a fence and went into a neighbour's yard. One of the neighbours was outside and confronted the man who was told to get off his property. With this happening, it is not safe for children.

Advertising an empty house for short-term rental accommodation for 10 people, what do you expect to happen? The owner gets the money, the community gets to keep their children inside out of fear, cars parked illegally (in normal times), noise and disruption. Tell us that is O.K.

I want to point out that this occurred when we are under COVID-19 restrictions – no more than 5 people all from the same family pod allowed in a group, social distancing, Airbnb's not allowed to be operating. Yet this happened in our neighbourhood where there is no by-law preventing this occurrence.

I hope the City will force Airbnb and other websites to delist the property, as Airbnb's regulations were violated, the Ontario Government's COVID-19 regulations were violated, and a peaceful family community was violated.

.

Multiple jurisdictions around the world have endured the same problems and have enacted legislation to prevent this irresponsible behaviour from happening.

What we have is an unregulated, unsupervised Hotel in a residential area. I shouldn't have to say this, but the City has a responsibility to do something about this.

This situation is very upsetting for our neighbourhood. We have set up a Neighbourhood Watch Group to protect our safety and our property. We have a Residents Group to speak on our behalf when things are disrupted in our neighbourhood. So now we are speaking out. **WE NEED A BY-LAW TO CONTROL WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS WITH THESE**

AIRBNBs/STRAs. There needs to be a structure of what is acceptable and what is not acceptable. There needs to be something that staff and by-law officers can implement when residents' safety is put

in jeopardy. We desperately need a by-law to control the actions of others that upset our neighbours and neighbourhoods.

Don't just look at how many incidents have been reported. Look at the safety in the neighbourhoods that is being jeopardized by incidents that occur. Lack of regulation (as is present in Richmond Hill), gives staff no basis for controlling these incidents and no protection for residents and their families. We **need strong legislation** controlling the location of Airbnbs/STRAs so that we all can feel safe and there is some control over what can and cannot happen in our neighbourhoods.

We look forward to the discussions on this matter when the public consultations take place for Zone RH and the new OP. Despite Airbnbs/STRAs having been approved by the province, the residents of Richmond Hill have a voice and our concerns must be heard loud and clear by our elected representatives. We DO NOT APPROVE of having Airbnbs in our established peaceful neighbourhoods where they create worry, unrest, and jeopardize safety. Policy and by-laws must be created to protect OUR interests, and OUR investments.

Meanwhile, I would appreciate your putting this email in as a comment to be considered when drafting legislation for this item.