

An Ordinance to Amend and Reenact the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22 Licenses, and Chapter 130 Unified Development Code, to provide definitions and regulations regarding short term rentals, to add short term rentals as a permitted use in certain commercial and mixed use zoning districts within unincorporated St. Tammany Parish, and to provide for penalties and fines for violations.

WHEREAS, a short term rental is commonly defined as a dwelling unit rented for a period of less than thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, the growth and popularity of short term rentals in unincorporated St. Tammany Parish has resulted in a need to better define and establish uniformity for their permitting and use; and

WHEREAS, short term rental involves the business of lodging accommodation that caters to travelers and tourists, thus making it more similar to other lodging and accommodation uses (hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, and similar venues) and less similar to long term residential rentals and home office uses; and

WHEREAS, short term rentals are not compatible with the uses of residentially zoned districts; and

WHEREAS, short term rentals are more compatible with mixed-use and commercially zoned districts where residential and commercial uses are allowed to co-exist; and

WHEREAS, to promote the health, safety and welfare of citizens, the St. Tammany Parish Government considers it necessary to amend the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances and its Unified Development Code to provide definitions and regulations regarding short term rentals in unincorporated St. Tammany Parish.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY ORDAINS that it amends the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22 Licenses, Taxation, Regulations, and Chapter 130 Unified Development Code to provide definitions and regulations regarding short term rentals, to add short term rentals as a permitted use in certain commercial and mixed use zoning districts within unincorporated St. Tammany Parish, and to provide for penalties and fines for violations as follows, to wit:

Amend Sec. 22-41. – Retail dealers in merchandise, services and rentals, to add:

(2) jji. Short term rentals

Amend Sec. 22-116. – Definitions, to add short term rentals to the definition of hotels subject to the hotel tax:

Sec. 22-116. - Definitions.

As used in this article, the following words, terms and phrases have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except when the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Hotel, as used herein, means and include any establishment, including short term rentals, both public and private, engaged in the business of furnishing or providing rooms and overnight camping facilities intended or designed for dwelling, lodging or sleeping purposes to transient guests where such establishment consists of two or more guest rooms and does not encompass any hospital, convalescent or nursing home or sanitarium, or any hotel-like facility operated by or in connection with a hospital or medical clinic providing rooms exclusively for patients and their families. Motels and tourist camps and overnight camping facilities are included within the definition in this subsection and shall specifically include establishments providing campgrounds and hook-ups or connection facilities for transient or overnight campers who travel or provide their own camping equipment but pay fees and consideration for the location and placement and various services for such campers. The term "hotel" used herein shall not include camp and retreat facilities owned and operated by nonprofit organizations exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code provided that the net revenue derived from the organization's property is devoted wholly to the nonprofit organization's purposes.

Amend Chapter 22 – Licenses, Taxation and Regulations to add a new Article XII – SHORT

TERM RENTALS:

Sec. 22-587. - Definitions.

As used in this article, the following words, terms and phrases have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except when the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Short Term Rental – A dwelling unit, whether single family or multi-family, rented for a period of less than thirty (30) days.

Sec. 22-588. – Imposition and Levy.

There is hereby levied and imposed within the unincorporated areas of the parish an annual license in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) for all short term rentals operating in the unincorporated areas of the parish, for the purposes of monitoring and enforcing the provisions of this code related to short term rentals.

Sec. 22-589. – Disbursement.

The proceeds of the annual license shall be utilized for enforcement.

Sec. 22-590. - Failure to pay tax—Court action.

Failure to pay any hotel tax as provided in this article shall ipso facto, without demand or putting in default, cause said tax, interest, penalties and costs to become immediately delinquent, and the parish council is hereby vested with authority, on motion in a court of competent jurisdiction, to take a rule on the said dealers or operators of the facilities for which this hotel tax is imposed to show cause in not less than two or more than ten days, exclusive of holidays, after the service thereof, which may be tried out of term and in chambers, and shall always be tried by preference, why said dealer or person should not be ordered to cease from further pursuit of business as a dealer, and in case said rule is made absolute, the order thereon rendered shall be considered a judgment in favor of the governing authority, prohibiting such dealer from the further pursuit of said business until such time as he has paid the said delinquent tax, interest, penalties and costs, and every violation of the injunction shall be considered as a contempt of court, and punished according to law.

Amend Sec 130-5 Definitions, to insert the following in alphabetical order:

Residence means a home, abode or place where an individual is actively living at a specific point in time, other than one being used as a short term rental as defined herein.

Short Term Rental – A dwelling unit, whether single family or multi-family, rented for a period of less than thirty (30) days.

Amend Article III of Chapter 130 to add a new Sec. 130-89. – Violations of Short Term Rental Provisions.:

Advertising a residence as a short term rental in any district other than those in which short term rentals are permitted creates a presumption that a short term rental is being operated in violation of this code.

Amend NC-3 Lodging District, specifically Sec. 130-736. – Administrative Permits, to add a new:

(4) Short Term Rental

Amend NC-4 Neighborhood Institutional District, specifically Sec. 130-760. – Administrative Permits, to add a new:

(4) Short Term Rental

Amend NC-5 Retail and Service District, specifically Sec. 130-792. – Administrative Permits, to add a new:

(6) Short Term Rental

Amend NC-6 Public, Cultural and Recreational District, specifically Sec. 130-814. – Administrative Permits, to add a new:

(4) Short Term Rental

Amend HC-1 Highway Commercial District, specifically Sec. 130-898. – Administrative Permits, to add a new:

(9) Short Term Rental

Amend HC-2 Highway Commercial District, specifically Sec. 130-898. – Administrative Permits, to add a new:

(18) Short Term Rental

Amend HC-2A Highway Commercial District, specifically Sec. 130-946. – Administrative Permits, to add a new:

(9) Short Term Rental

Amend HC-3 Highway Commercial District, specifically Sec. 130-970. – Administrative Permits, to add a new:

(9) Short Term Rental

Amend HC-4 Highway Commercial District, specifically Sec. 130-1003. – Administrative Permits, to add a new:

(9) Short Term Rental

Amend HC-5 Highway Commercial District, specifically Sec. 130-898. – Administrative Permits, to add a new:

(9) Short Term Rental

Amend TND-1 Traditional Neighborhood Development District, specifically Sec. 130-1459. – Overview, to add short term rentals:

(d) A "mixed residential area" includes a variety of residential land uses, including single-family residential, duplex, townhome, and multi-family. Residential scale retail and commercial uses are permitted within a mixed residential area with strict architectural and land use controls. Retail and commercial uses in a mixed residential area are required to blend into the residential character of the neighborhood. A mixed residential area includes open spaces including small squares, pocket parks, community parks, and greenbelts. A mixed residential area promotes pedestrian activity through well designed and varied streetscapes that also provide for the safe and efficient movement of vehicular traffic. Mixed residential area uses include single-family homes, condominiums, townhomes, apartments, short term rentals, offices, restaurants, neighborhood scale retail, and civic uses. Mixed residential areas often utilize alleys.

Amend TND-2 Traditional Neighborhood Development District, specifically Sec. 130-1510. –

Overview, to add short term rentals:

(d) A "mixed residential area" includes a variety of residential land uses, including single-family residential, duplex, townhome, and multi-family. Residential scale retail and commercial uses are permitted within a mixed residential area with strict architectural and land use controls. Retail and commercial uses in a mixed residential area are required to blend into the residential character of the neighborhood. A mixed residential area includes open spaces including small squares, pocket parks, community parks, and greenbelts. A mixed residential area promotes pedestrian activity through well designed and varied streetscapes that also provide for the safe and efficient movement of vehicular traffic. Mixed residential area uses include single-family homes, condominiums, townhomes, apartments, offices, short term rentals, restaurants, neighborhood scale retail, and civic uses. Mixed residential areas often utilize alleys.

Amend Sec. 130-2213 Minimum standards, to add a new:

(57) Short Term Rental.

A. Where a short term rental is allowed, the proposed use shall meet the following criteria:

1. One off street parking space will be required for each rented bedroom. A floor plan must be submitted at the time of application to determine the number of parking spaces required.

2. The owner or operator of a short term rental is not required to be present during the duration of a short term rental guest's visit, but when the owner or operator is off premises a designated local party, which may be the owner or operator, must be available to respond to complaints from either guests or neighbors and shall be available to appear on the premises to address any issues. A letter detailing the name and contact information of the owner, operator or designated local party, including phone number(s), address, and email address if available, must be provided to the Department of Planning and Development at the time of application. The owner or operator is responsible for updating said designated local party and contact information anytime such information changes.

3. Proof of occupational license is required at time of application.

4. An annual license must be obtained at the time of application and renewed each year in accordance with Chapter 22 of the St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances.

B. Nothing in this section is intended to apply to or prohibit the long-term rental of a dwelling unit for thirty (30) consecutive days or more and where typically the method of rental involves an extended period of time.