



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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PRESS RELEASE

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South Portland Voters Uphold Short Term Rental Regulations – Now What?

Based on the (unofficial) results of Tuesday's election, South Portland voters have reaffirmed the short term rental ordinance amendments the City Council has been working on for over a year now, which expressly allow hosted home stays and prohibit non-hosted home stays in residential zoning districts. The vote was 6,375 for the ordinances and 5,378 against. 1,550 ballots were left blank on this question.

Now that the voters have spoken, City staff is in the process of selecting a consultant to help the City identify and monitor short term rental (STR) listings across a number of online platforms, such as Airbnb and VRBO. The City intends to use monitoring software that will be critical in providing our Code Enforcement Office staff a means to identify unauthorized non-hosted rentals in residential zones and ensure that authorized hosted and non-hosted rentals are registered with the City and comply with the short term rental ordinance provisions. These new ordinances will become effective on January 1, 2019. Given that this is nearly two months away and that the ordinances were adopted by the City Council several months ago, the City believes there is ample time for those operating non-hosted short term rentals in residential zones to cease operating them as such, and to begin using their properties in a manner that is compliant with City ordinances. For those who are eligible to register their short term rental unit with the City, we encourage you to check the City's website regularly for announcements and instructions on how to register an STR. More information about that process will be released via the City Clerk's office in the near future.

For more information, please contact City Manager Scott Morelli at smorelli@southportland.org or (207) 767-7606.