Councilors:

My family owns a 100-year-old house on King Street that was constructed as a single-family residence, then converted to a duplex. The city would not allow us to de-convert the house into a single family home when we sought to do that. We live downstairs, making use of a combined living room/dining area as a single-bedroom apartment and have tenants upstairs. When we have the financial capacity we would like to occupy our whole home.

As you review the practical impacts of No-Fault Evictions, would you please consider how a rule like that would affect a family like ours, that could be prevented from living in its own house? You’ll be thinking about many other perspectives and values, I’m sure, and I’m supportive of work that improves the justness and wellbeing of our community, but this kind of rule-making should not be simplified to the point of creating unintended injuries. Thank you for welcoming nuance like this to your conversation.

—

JAMES LOCKRIDGE (he/him)
Executive Director, Big Heavy World | WOMM-LP 105.9FM The Radiator
Chittenden Zone Agent, Vermont Creative Network
Brigade Co-Captain, Code for BTV
The Cherry Coal

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