

Begin forwarded message:

From: <thomasdettrecpa@gmail.com>
Subject: Proposed charter change - elimination of no-cause evictions
Date: September 22, 2020 at 6:29:45 PM EDT
To: <jshannon@burlingtonvt.gov>
Cc: <Rob@ownavthome.com>, "Larry Miller" <btvlandlords@gmail.com>

[WARNING]: External Message

Dear Joan,

I am writing as a property owner and landlord in Burlington. My husband and I own a house with an accessory apartment, which we rent to tenants. The accessory apartment is in the back of our house. I have become aware of the proposed charter change being considered by the Burlington Charter Change Committee to eliminate no-cause evictions. As I understand it, this change would mean that if a tenant pays rent and does not breach the lease, landlords will be required to renew the lease, indefinitely, and will not be able to decline to renew a lease without very significant cause.

From my perspective, I do not support this change. As our apartment is in the back of our house (with a separate entrance) and thus tenants live in close proximity to us, there may be many reasons outside of the lease that there may not be a good fit with a tenant. For our situation (and multiple other similar situations in the city) - to tie our hands and essentially force us, essentially infinitely, to continue to rent to a tenant who pays rent and does not breach the lease, but where for whatever reason (and adhering to non-discrimination rules, etc.) we would rather not continue to have a tenant living on our own property – strikes me as heavy handed and overly restrictive, with the potential to adversely impact my quality of life as a city resident, property owner and taxpayer.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Dettre

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