

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADOPTION OF SHORT TERM RENTAL USE ORDINANCE

To all persons operating or proposing to operate a Short Term Rental Use in the City of Dover, please be advised that the Dover City Council adopted Ordinance 2020-05 on January 11, 2021.

In considering the ordinance, City Council established its purpose as follows:

“Purpose. The City of Dover wishes to permit the limited and temporary rental use of one family dwellings (residences) in established areas of the City as an economic asset, allowing for increased travel, visitation and tourism and affording property owners of the opportunity to earn revenue from such occupancy, while ensuring that such uses do not become a nuisance, that neighborhood character is not compromised, and that such businesses are properly operated and maintained. The purpose of this Division shall be to minimize public safety risks and public nuisances, such as noise, trash and parking problems; to ensure that traditional neighborhoods are not turned into tourist areas to the detriment of long-term residents; and to ensure that individual dwellings are not turned into pseudo hotels or party houses.”

Key provisions of the ordinance include but are not limited to:

- a) The Owner of the property being offered as a Short Term Rental Use must be a resident of the City of Dover and such owner may offer for Short Term Rental Use only that property which is the owner's primary residence.
- b) A property not owned by a resident of the City of Dover shall not be used as a Short Term Rental Use. Such property shall not be used for overnight accommodations unless such property qualifies as a Bed and Breakfast Inn.
- c) The Owner has the responsibility to not knowingly allow any illegal or criminal activity on the property nor permit the guests to create a public nuisance.
- d) The Owner of any dwelling proposed for a Short Term Rental Use must obtain an annual Short Term Rental Use license. An inspection by the City of Dover code enforcement office shall be required to determine compliance with property maintenance and all other applicable codes. The inspection shall be required the first time a license is issued and may be required at renewal at the discretion of the code enforcement office.
- e) The ordinance establishes standards for occupancy, parking, signage, special events and information required to be provided to guests.

This Ordinance recognizes that Short Term Rentals are an economic asset, allowing for increased travel, visitation and tourism and affording property owners of the opportunity to earn revenue from such occupancy, while setting forth the purposes and establishing regulations to ensure that such uses do not create public safety risks or become nuisances. It sets forth owner's rules, responsibilities and obligations with safeguards to protect established neighborhoods, address

nuisances, provide notice, and address complaints. It also includes provisions for reporting, enforcement and penalties for violations.

Copies of the Ordinance are available from the City Clerk's Office (736-7008 or cityclerk@dover.de.us) or on the City website at:

<https://www.cityofdover.com/ordinances-and-resolutions>.

For information on obtaining a Short Term Rental Use License you may contact the Permit and Licensing Office at 302-736-7011 or permitsandlicenses@dover.de.us