



CITY OF DOVER PROPOSED ORDINANCE #2022-14

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DOVER, IN COUNCIL MET:

That Chapter 22- Buildings and Building Regulations, Article X.- Rental Dwellings, be amended to read as follows:

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 22-331. Purpose; applicability; definitions; compliance.

- (a) *Purpose.* The purpose and intent of this article is to ensure public health, safety and welfare insofar as they are affected by the continued occupancy and maintenance of dwellings operated for lease to the public. The health, safety and welfare of the occupants of the dwellings are of the utmost importance to the city, as is the general community character in which these dwelling units are located.
- (b) *Applicability.* The provisions of this article shall apply to all matters affecting or relating to rental dwellings. Where, in this article, different sections of this Code may specify different requirements, the most restrictive shall govern.
- (c) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
 - (1) *Criminal activity* is defined as any crime classified by applicable law as a (a) felony, (b) Class A misdemeanor, or (c) any of the following offenses: any drug offense defined by Title 16 of the Delaware Code, and the following misdemeanors in addition to any Class A misdemeanor, as defined by Title 11 of the Delaware Code: § 601—Offensive touching, § 602—Menacing, § 628—Vehicular assault 3, § 763—Sexual harassment, § 764—Indecent exposure, § 811—Criminal mischief, § 812—Graffiti, § 820—Trespassing, § 821/2/3—Criminal trespassing, § 1105—Crime against a vulnerable adult, § 1106—Unlawfully dealing with a child, § 1301—Disorderly conduct, § 1313—Malicious interference with emergency communications, § 1315—Public intoxication, § 1321—Loitering, § 1322—Criminal nuisance, § 1323—Obstructing of public passage, § 1341—Lewdness, § 1342—Prostitution, § 1343—Patronizing a prostitute, § 1445—Unlawfully dealing with a dangerous weapon, § 1446—Unlawfully dealing with a switchblade knife.
 - (2) *Dwelling unit* means a single unit providing complete independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

- (3) Liability insurance refers to an insurance product that provides an insured party with protection against claims resulting from injuries and damage to other people or property. Liability insurance policies cover any legal costs and payouts an insured party is responsible for if they are found legally liable.
 - (4) *Multiple-family dwellings* means dwelling units operated as a group, and located in the same building. This shall include apartments, roominghouses, condominium dwelling units, and accessory apartments located within structures principally used for owner occupancy.
 - (5) Property insurance means financial reimbursement to the owner or renter of a structure and its contents in case there is damage or theft—and to a person other than the owner or renter if that person is injured on the property.
 - (6) *Rental dwelling* means a dwelling unit that is leased for occupancy to a person or persons in exchange for monetary payment or provision of goods or services to the owner of the dwelling unit.
 - (7) *Single-family dwellings* means dwelling units operated singly, and separated from other units. In general, this definition shall apply to single-family detached dwellings; mobile homes and manufactured homes; and attached units, including duplexes and townhouses.
- (d) *Compliance required.* No person shall operate, occupy or let to another for occupancy any dwelling which is not in compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code adopted in [section 22-221](#) and all other applicable codes.

(Code 1981, § 10-86; Ord. of 4-10-2000; Ord. No. 2013-04, 4-8-2013; Ord. No. [2016-16](#), 8-8-2016)

Sec. 22-332. - Inspection required.

- (a) The code enforcement office, in accordance with the procedures set forth in the International Property Maintenance Code adopted in [section 22-221](#), shall inspect rental dwellings for compliance with the property maintenance code and all other applicable codes to ensure compliance.
- (b) An inspection is required prior to the issuance of any new rental dwelling permit.
- (c) Following an inspection, the code enforcement office shall issue a letter and/or report of any code violations and provide a timeline for compliance. There shall be no fee for the first followup inspection. Each subsequent reinspection shall be subject to a fee as provided for in Appendix F—Fees and Fines.

(Code 1981, § 10-87; Ord. of 4-10-2000; Ord. of 4-14-2008; Ord. No. 2009-26, 12-14-2009; Ord. No. 2013-04, 4-8-2013)

Sec. 22-333. - Agent required.

- (a) *Property manager.* Any owner of a rental dwelling, residing outside of the county, shall be required to have a licensed property manager residing or having an office located in the county. The property manager shall have charge, care and control of the rental dwelling, and shall provide access to the rental dwelling for inspection, upon request by the code official, within a reasonable time.
- (b) *Corporate or partnership owners.* Any corporation or partnership owning a rental dwelling shall have a designated member, partner, or employee having charge, care, and control of the rental dwelling. The designated member, partner or employee shall reside in or have an office located in the county. The property manager shall have charge, care and control of the rental dwelling, and shall provide access to the rental dwelling for inspection, upon request by code official, within a reasonable time.

(Code 1981, § 10-88; Ord. of 4-10-2000; Ord. of 12-11-2000; Ord. of 4-14-2008; Ord. No. 2013-04, 4-8-2013)

Sec. 22-334 Insurance required

Any owner of a rental property shall have property insurance in sufficient amount to replace the estimated value of the improvements on the property and provide protection for claims against the property.

Proof of insurance coverage shall be provided upon application for a rental permit and upon each annual renewal thereafter.

Secs. 22-335—22-350. Reserved.

DIVISION 2. - PERMIT

Sec. 22-351. - Generally.

- (a) *Single-family dwellings.* It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any single-family rental dwelling without obtaining a permit from the licensing division of the department of planning and inspections to determine compliance with the appropriate provisions of this article. The permit shall expire annually on January 31. The fee for the annual permit shall be as provided for in Appendix F—Fees and Fines. The permit fee for rental dwelling permits issued after January 31st will be prorated from the date the permit is issued until the next January 31st.
- (b) *Multiple-family dwellings.* It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any multiple dwelling without first obtaining an annual permit therefor from the licensing division of the department of planning and inspections to determine compliance with the appropriate provisions of this article. The permit shall expire annually on January 31, and the fee for the annual permit shall be as provided for in Appendix F—Fees and Fines. The permit fee for rental dwelling permits issued after January 31st will be prorated from the date the permit is issued until the next January 31st.
- (c) *Late payment penalty.* In the event that the permit fee set forth herein is not paid on the date due, then the permittee shall incur a penalty fee as provided for in Appendix F—Fees and Fines until the same is paid.

- (d) *Reinstatement fee.* An owner whose permit has been suspended in accordance with section 22-352 shall pay a reinstatement fee as provided for in Appendix F—Fees and Fines.
 - (e) *Lien.* In the event that the property owner fails to pay said fees within 30 days from the date a notice thereof is mailed to the owner, then such fees shall be entered in the municipal lien docket as a lien owing the city; and the same may be turned over to the city solicitor for collection.
 - (f) *Utilities.* The owner or occupant of any rental unit shall not be entitled to receive any new city utilities until the permit fee required in this section is paid in full and city personnel shall refuse to provide sewage, water and electricity to the property until satisfactory proof is furnished that such permit fee has been paid.
- (Code 1981, § 10-96; Ord. of 4-10-2000; Ord. No. 2009-09, 6-22-2009; Ord. No. 2013-04, 4-8-2013)

Sec. 22-352. - Suspension.

- (a) *Grounds; duration.* The building inspector shall suspend the permit issued or withhold the permit paid for, pursuant to this division, when:
 - (1) The building inspector determines that any dwelling or the premises surrounding the dwelling fails to meet the requirements of this chapter.

Suspension shall last until the violations have been corrected to the satisfaction of the building inspector, or the suspension shall have been reversed.

- (b) *Notice of violations.* Upon suspending any permit under this section or withholding the permit paid for, the building inspector shall notify the owner of the violations of the applicable code and shall prescribe a period in which the violation shall be corrected.
 - (c) *Appeal.* Any owner or operator of any dwelling, whose permit to operate the structure is suspended by the building inspector pursuant to the procedures of this section, shall have the right to appeal and notice as provided in section 22-225.
 - (d) *Effect of appeal.* Upon suspension of a permit or withholding of a permit ordered by the building inspector and upon the permittee serving the city clerk with a notice of appeal pursuant to section 22-225, the permit suspension shall be stayed and an existing permit shall remain in force until the appeal is decided.
- (Code 1981, § 10-97; Ord. of 4-10-2000; Ord. No. 2009-26, 12-14-2009; Ord. No. 2013-04, 4-8-2013)

Secs. 22-353—22-355. - Reserved.

DIVISION 3. - SHORT TERM RENTAL USE^[5]

Footnotes:

--- (5) ---

Editor's note— Ord. No. 2020-05 , adopted January 11, 2021, renumbered div. 3 as div. 4.

Sec. 22-356. - Purpose; applicability; definitions; compliance.

- (a) *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.
- (b) *Applicability.* A short term rental use (STRU) shall be allowed in any one family dwelling as defined in Appendix B—Zoning, Article 12—Definitions of the zoning ordinance wherever such are allowed by right and do not require a variance or conditional use approval.
- (c) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Good neighbor brochure means a document provided by the owner to the guest or guests and containing: the name and telephone number for the owner; notification on standards of behavior and occupancy relating to parking, noise, trash collection, waste disposal, street maintenance, snow removal, and public safety services and including contact and web access information; and such other information as the city may from time to time prescribe.

Guest or guests means the individual or individuals securing the short term rental use for the purposes of staying overnight.

Owner means the person or persons holding legal or equitable title to the property being offered as a short term rental use.

Short term rental use (STRU) means rental of all or a part of a residential one family dwelling unit which is made available by agreement for a residential occupancy by a tenant in exchange for compensation for a duration of a temporary occupancy of less than 30 days. Rentals of 30 days or more shall comply with the provisions of divisions 1 and 2 of this chapter. Lodginghouses as defined in article IX, section 22-281 is not included as short term rental uses under this division.

- (d) *Compliance.* No person shall operate, offer for occupancy or let to another for occupancy as a short term rental use any dwelling which is not in compliance with this article or any other applicable codes.

(Ord. No. 2020-05 , 1-11-2021)

Sec. 22-357. - Registration and inspection requirements; inspection required for life safety and building purposes; short-term rental use license required.

- (a) The owner of any dwelling proposed for a short term rental use must obtain an annual short term rental use license.

- (b) An inspection by the city code enforcement office shall be required to determine compliance with property maintenance and all other applicable codes. Any items in non-compliance shall be remedied before a license is granted. 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. The rental license must be kept current during anytime the dwelling is offered as a short term rental
- (c) The license shall be valid for up to one year and must be renewed no later than January 31 of each year of continued operation.
- (d) The short term rental use license must be clearly displayed inside the dwelling along with any state licenses or permits.
- (e) The short term rental use license may not be transferred to any party except heirs and assigns and shall be void upon transfer of ownership of the property where the short term rental use is located.

(Ord. No. 2020-05 , 1-11-2021)

Sec. 22-358. - Owner obligations.

An owner of a dwelling seeking to use a property as a short term rental use shall comply with the following obligations:

- (1) The owner of the property being offered as a short term rental use must be a resident of the city. Determination of residency shall be based on meeting city voting residency eligibility. Such owner may offer for short term rental use only that property which is the owner's primary residence.
- (2) A property not owned by a resident of the city 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 pursuant to Dover Code, Appendix B—Zoning, Article 3—District Regulations.
- (3) A good neighbor brochure must be provided in the dwelling listing city provisions as required.

(Ord. No. 2020-05 , 1-11-2021)

Sec. 22-359. - Limitations on occupancy and use.

- (a) The number of guests 12 years and older permitted at any time shall not exceed twice the number of bedrooms (i.e. three bedrooms × two = six occupants), with a maximum of 12 individual occupants of all ages at any one time regardless of the number of bedrooms available.
- (b) No more than one extra vehicle per bedroom shall be allowed, not to exceed six extra in total; all parking shall comply with all requirements relating to street maintenance, fire access, parking on paved surfaces, trash collection, obstacles to travel, or other requirements. Violations shall be ticketed offenses.
- (c) Signage identifying the short term rental use, if desired, shall be limited to one sign, mounted on the dwelling, not illuminated, and not to exceed one square feet in size overall. A sign permit

must be obtained for any desired sign.

- (d) Access to a full bath must be provided.
- (e) Guests shall be prohibited from further subletting the dwelling.
- (f) Weddings, graduation parties, corporate events, commercial functions, large gatherings, or other special events associated with the STRU shall be prohibited unless a city special event permit shall have been granted for a specific activity and date.
- (g) 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 including, but not limited to, creating noise, causing odors, permitting an unsafe condition, maintaining a disorderly premise, generation of trash, or other behavior which unreasonably disturbs the peace, safety and general welfare of the neighborhood as provided in this chapter and pursuant to Chapter 70—Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Section 70-8—Disorderly Premises and Chapter 42—Environment, Section 42-2—Noise of the Dover Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 2020-05 , 1-11-2021)

Sec. 22-360. - Enforcement, fees and penalties, reporting.

- (a) *Short term rental license.* Payment of a short term rental use license fee as set forth in Appendix F—Fees and Fines is required annually beginning January 31 of each year; the fee will be prorated for a partial year.
- (b) *Failure to register and obtain a license.* Penalties fines for failure to register and obtain a license shall be as set forth in Appendix F—Fees and Fines.
- (c) *Penalties for violations.* Penalties for violations of Division 3, Short Term Rental Use, shall be as set forth in Appendix F—Fees and Fines.
- (d) A dwelling cited three times by the Code official or by any city department as a nuisance or the location of illegal or criminal activity within any consecutive 12-month period shall have its short term rental use license suspended for not less than the rest of the license year or a longer period up to permanently.
- (e) The owner shall voluntarily report to the city annually documenting the occupancy and frequency of rentals obtained, such report to be completed by January 31 of the following year as part of the license renewal and for the purposes of building a database of STRU activity and economic impact, not for enforcement or tax purposes.

(Ord. No. 2020-05 , 1-11-2021)

Sec. 22-361. - Enforcement, notice and appeals.

Enforcement of violations of this division shall be as set forth in Chapter 22—Buildings and Building Regulations, Chapter 42—Environment, and Chapter 70—Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions of the Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 2020-05 , 1-11-2021)

Secs. 22-362—22-380. - Reserved.
(Ord. No. 2013-04, 4-8-2013)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED:

That Appendix F Fees and Fines, Chapter 22 Buildings and Building Regulations be amended by inserting the text indicated in bold, blue font and deleting the text indicated in red strikethrough as follows:

APPENDIX F – FEES AND FINES

Chapter 22. Buildings and Building Regulations

Chapter 22. Buildings and Building Regulations	Fees and Fines
<i>Article III. Building Code</i>	
Fines not paid within 14 days of the day the fine was issued, including the day the fine was issued, shall be automatically doubled in amount.	
Sec. 22-61. Adopted (International Building Code)	
Sec. 105.5.1. Expiration; Additional 180-day extensions may be granted with payment of a renewal fee	\$25.00 per 180-day extension
Sec. 113.4. Violation penalties; Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense	Fine of not less than \$100.00 or more than \$10,000.00
Sec. 114.3. Unlawful continuance	
First offense	\$100.00
Second offense	\$250.00
Third offense	\$500.00
Fourth and subsequent offenses	No less than \$1,000.00 and no more than \$10,000.00
Sec. 22-65. Permit fees	
Fees shall double in the event that a permit is applied for after construction has commenced without the permission of the building inspector. The building inspector may waive the doubling of fees in cases where the building permit applicant is not a professional contractor, and the work is not being done by a professional contractor.	
Subsec. (a) Building permits	\$25.00 for first \$1,000.00 of costs and \$8.00 for each additional \$1,000.00 of costs or multiples thereof up to \$10,000,000.00 of costs, \$6.00 for each additional \$1,000.00 of costs or multiple thereof up to

	\$20,000,000.00, and \$5.00 for each additional \$1,000.00 of costs or multiple thereof above \$20,000,000.00
Subsec. (a) Fence permits	\$25.00 for first \$1,000.00 of costs and \$8.00 for each additional \$1,000.00 of costs or multiple thereof
Subsec. (a) Sign permits	\$0.75 per square foot of sign area; minimum fee for each permit \$50.00
Subsec. (a) Swimming pool permits	\$25.00 for first \$1,000.00 of costs and \$8.00 for each additional \$1,000.00 of costs or multiple thereof
Subsec. (a) Demolition permits, any building which is being demolished for the purpose of vacating the land for future development or construction upon the same	\$50.00; \$0.00 if condemned and required to be demolished by the city or any public entity
Subsec. (a) Moving permits, each building	\$250.00
Subsec. (a) Construction plan reviews, nonresidential (Not subject to doubling)	\$20.00 per set of plans
Subsec. (b) Reinspections (Not subject to doubling)	
First reinspection	\$0.00
Second reinspection	\$25.00
Third reinspection	\$50.00
Any subsequent reinspection	\$100.00
<i>Article IV. Electrical Installations</i>	
Fines not paid within 14 days of the day the fine was issued, including the day the fine was issued, shall be automatically doubled in amount.	
Sec. 22-110. Violations	Not less than \$25.00 or more than \$1,000.00
<i>Article V. Mechanical Code</i>	
Fines not paid within 14 days of the day the fine was issued, including the day the fine was issued, shall be automatically doubled in amount.	

Sec. 22-145. Heating, air conditioning, and heat pump permit fees	
Fees shall double in the event that a permit is applied for after construction has commenced without the permission of the building inspector.	
Subsec. (a) Heating permit	\$40.00 first 10,000 BTUs and \$7.00 each additional 10,000 BTUs or multiple thereof
Subsec. (a) Air conditioning permit	\$40.00 per ton for the first five tons and \$7.00 per ton over five tons or multiple thereof
Subsec. (a) Heat pump permit	\$40.00 first 10,000 BTUs and \$7.00 for each additional 10,000 BTUs or multiple thereof or \$40.00 per ton for the first five tons and \$7.00 per ton over five tons or multiples thereof
<i>Article VI. Plumbing Code</i>	
Fines not paid within 14 days of the day the fine was issued, including the day the fine was issued, shall be automatically doubled in amount.	
Sec. 22-185. Permit fees	
Fees shall double in the event that a permit is applied for after construction has commenced without the permission of the building inspector. The building inspector may waive the doubling of fees in cases where the building permit applicant is not a professional contractor, and the work is not being done by a professional contractor.	
Subsec. (a) Enumerated	
Fixtures	\$35.00 first five fixtures and \$3.00 for each additional fixture
Garbage disposal and hot water heaters	A minimum fee of \$35.00
Gas, water and sewer inspection underground	\$30.00 for first 150 feet and \$0.75 for each additional ten feet or multiple thereof
<i>Article VIII. Leases</i>	
Fines not paid within 14 days of the day the fine was issued, including the day the fine was issued,	

<p>shall be automatically doubled in amount.</p> <p>(1) <i>Lien.</i> Any fines or fees imposed that remain unpaid shall:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Be added to the tax duplicate for the tax year said citation was issued by the city and invoiced as part of the annual property tax bill for said property and collected as part of the city property tax collection process, and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) Be placed by the city as specified in the municipal lien docket as a lien against the property on which the violation occurred.</p>	
Sec. 22-251. Unlawful leases	
Subsec. (g) Violations; penalties	
First offense	\$100.00
Each subsequent offense	Not less than \$100.00 or more than \$1,000.00
<i>Article IX. Lodging Houses</i>	
<p>Fines not paid within 14 days of the day the fine was issued, including the day the fine was issued, shall be automatically doubled in amount.</p> <p>(1) <i>Lien.</i> Any fines or fees imposed that remain unpaid shall:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Be added to the tax duplicate for the tax year said citation was issued by the city and invoiced as part of the annual property tax bill for said property and collected as part of the city property tax collection process, and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) Be placed by the city as specified in the municipal lien docket as a lien against the property on which the violation occurred.</p>	
Sec. 22-301. Generally	
Subsec. (b) Expiration; fee	
Annual permit fee	\$100.00 for the first ten rooms and \$10.00 for each additional room.
Annual dormitory permit fee	\$100.00 for the first ten rooms and \$10.00 for each room thereafter.
Subsec. (c) Failure to pay on due date	A penalty fee in the amount of ten percent per month of the amount of the license fee until the same is paid.
Subsec. (d) Reinstatement fee	\$100.00

<i>Article X. Rental Dwellings</i>	
Fines not paid within 14 days of the day the fine was issued, including the day the fine was issued, shall be automatically doubled in amount.	
Sec. 22-332. Inspection required	
Subsec. (b) Reinspection fee (Not subject to doubling)	
First follow-up inspection	\$0.00
Each subsequent reinspection, per inspection	\$100.00
If the permit fee is not paid on the date due, the permittee shall incur a penalty fee of ten percent per month of the amount of the license fee until the same is paid.	
Fines not paid within 14 days of the day the fine was issued, including the day the fine was issued, shall be automatically doubled in amount.	
Sec. 22-334 Insurance Required	
Subsec. (c) Violations; penalties	Not less than \$25.00, nor more than \$1,000.00
Sec. 22-351. Generally	
Subsec. (a) Single-family dwellings, annual permit	
Single-family detached dwelling, each dwelling	\$200.00
Single-family attached dwelling, each dwelling	\$200.00
Subsec. (b) Multiple-family dwellings, annual permit	
Multiple dwellings consisting of three or less dwelling units	\$200.00
Multiple dwellings consisting of four or more dwelling units:	
For the first three dwelling units	\$200.00
For each additional dwelling unit in excess of three	\$50.00
Condominium units and accessory apartments located within structures principally used for owner occupancy, each	\$75.00
Subsec. (c) Late payment penalty	A penalty fee in the amount of ten percent per month of the amount of the license fee until the same is paid.
Subsec. (d) Reinstatement fee	\$100.00
Sec. 22-360. Enforcement, Fees and Penalties, Reporting	
Subsec. (a) Short term rental license	\$200.00 annually, prorated for partial year
Subsec. (b) Failure to register and obtain a license	Not less than \$100.00 or more than \$1,000.00 (not prorated) in addition to license
Subsec. (c) Penalties for violations	Not less than

	\$100.00 or more than \$1,000.00 per offense
Article XI. Dangerous Buildings	
Fines not paid within 14 days of the day the fine was issued, including the day the fine was issued, shall be automatically doubled in amount.	
Sec. 22-386. Violations; penalties for disregarding notices or orders	
Subsec. (a) Violations by owner, each offense, minimum	\$100.00
Subsec. (b) Violations by occupant or lessee, each offense, minimum	\$100.00
Subsec. (c) Removal of notice, each offense, minimum	\$100.00
Article XII. Vacant Buildings	
Fines not paid within 14 days of the day the fine was issued, including the day the fine was issued, shall be automatically doubled in amount.	
Sec. 22-403. Registration and registration fees	
Subsec. (a)(2)b.(ii). Registration fee	
Residential buildings and non-residential buildings <10,000 SF:	
Buildings vacant one year or less	\$375.00
Buildings vacant for more than one year but less than two years	\$750.00
Buildings vacant for more than two years but less than three years	\$1,500.00
Buildings vacant for more than three years but less than five years	\$3,000.00
Buildings vacant for five years or longer	\$5,000.00

ADOPTED: NOVEMBER 28, 2022

S:\ClerksOffice\Ordinances\BLOCKS\Ordinance.wpd

SYNOPSIS

This ordinance deletes the Safe Communities Ordinance which, according to the City Solicitor the Safe Communities Ordinance is problematic from an enforcement standpoint and believes that it a violation of the Residential Landlord-Tenant Code, 25 Del C. § 5101 *et seq.* This ordinance clarifies that an inspection is required in order to renew a rental license and raises the fees for rental permits which are more in line with what Newark (which has a high number of rentals given the student population) charges but is below the total amount of what Lewes and Rehoboth charge as well as helping to defray rising costs for inspections. This ordinance also requires that property owners who rent out properties have property insurance and allows unpaid fines related to rentals to become tax liens on the property.

(SPONSORS: BOGGERTY AND HUGG)

Actions History:

11/28/22 – Scheduled for Final Reading

11/14/22 – First Reading

09/27/22 – Legislative, Finance, and Administration Committee