

Nov. 19, 2020

RE: 4 Gorge Road East

To summarize and reiterate:

1. City Bylaw states that **'occasional' short-term rentals are permitted**. It does NOT define this by stating a maximum number of days per year.
2. Our basement is occupied year- round by my nephew, a young man with a cognitive disability (his personal belongings are exposed in the photos taken by the bylaw officer). My brother purchased this entire family house for the sole purpose of giving his son a private space, so that he can learn how to live independently while we live upstairs and supervise. He visits his mother out of province twice per year, Christmas and summer holidays. His suite has ONLY been put on Airbnb during this time – **in full compliance with the 'occasional' use criteria**. As he builds a new life in BC, he will spend far less time away than in 2019.
3. Denying us a short-term rental license has not, **nor will not**, do anything to assist the housing crisis. The basement suite has not been 'diverted from the rental market' and as long as this family owns the house, it will **never** be put on the market for long-term rentals. The basement will just sit empty for two months of the year.
4. Denying the license has created a loss of much needed household income. Despite the lack of tourism in 2020, in July we could have provided quarters for visitors from Up Island or local front-line workers.

Since the application was denied in December 2019, the city has dragged out this appeal process for an entire year, which has caused us anxiety and financial hardship. We ask City Council to recognize our compliance with the 'occasional use' criteria; and to show some compassion for families with disabilities.

*K. Van Ritzzen & Ian Ferguson*