



Aldermen pass permit requirements for short-term rentals

BY ABBYWOJCIK

The St. Louis Board of Aldermen passed on Oct. 20 new legislation regulating Airbnb locations and other short-term rental properties.

Mayor Tishaura O. Jones signed both bills on November 6.

The regulations will require a permit to operate a short-term rental in the City of St. Louis, a designated agent to respond to issues related to the permit and a process for the revocation of any such permit.

Issues related to short-term rentals in the city have been ongoing. Consistent instances of parties, violence and general nuisance have been associated with some of these rentals, leading neighbors concerned and frustrated with lack

of regulations in place for these property types.

“We try not to look at it as a punishment as much as what is the use of that property and how should we classify it?” said St. Louis City Assessor Michael Dauphin on St. Louis on the Air, a program on St. Louis Public Radio. “And when it comes to these short-term rentals that are being used full time, we just think they should be taxed like any other small business owner in the City of St. Louis.”

Ward 4 Alderman Bret Narayan took over as the primary sponsor of Board Bills 33 and 34 from former Alderwoman and current Director of Operations Christine Ingrassia, who worked on it for several years. Narayan said that this was one of the more challenging pieces of legislation he’s ever worked on due to the multiple stakeholders invested and the po-

larizing spectrum of feedback.

“Most comparable cities to St. Louis have had regulations for several years now, some are even looking at their second and third iteration of those regulations, but in St. Louis we’ve never had any regulations on short-term rentals,” Narayan said. “What these bills do is create the first regulatory framework of short-term rentals in the City of St. Louis.”

Board Bill 33 passed 11–3, with one abstention. Board Bill 34 passed 10–3, with one abstention; one alderperson did not vote.

“These bills are, really, kind of the epitome of compromise bills,” Narayan said. “I don’t think anyone out there is completely happy with the bills but that’s usually a sign that you’ve created good compromise.”

The major stakeholders of this issue — residents, short-term operators, and platforms like Airbnb



— can expect a timeline of about a year or less for the enforcement of the new regulations.

“I think it’s also important to note that this is not the last time that we’ll be having discussions on the regulation of short-term rentals,” Narayan shared. “This was really the first piece of regulation on it, so I imagine that we’ll be tinkering with this for quite some time. I hope that as we move forward that the community stays as involved in the conversation as they have been.”

Halloween party fills CWE streets

The annual CWE Halloween party took to the streets again on Saturday, Oct. 28. Although the evening activities were dampened by rain, the daytime portion went off without a “witch” (well actually there were a few of those!).

Festivities kicked off at 11 a.m. with the Children’s Costume Parade, which ran from McPherson Avenue to the main stage on Mary-

land Avenue. It featured a dance party, pumpkin decorating and kids’ crafts and games. At noon, the kids were free to trick-or-treat at area businesses.

Canines took over the parade route for the 1 p.m. dog costume parade, which included canine games and a contest.

Live music ran from 2 to 6 p.m., and the street party and Adult’s Costume Contest took place followed at the main stage. Because of rain, the costume contest was cut short, but pictures were taken of all the entrants and prizes awarded.

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PHOTOS BY NICKI DWYER



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from Alderman Browning



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Adam Layne,
Treasurer and Parking Czar



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Bob Duffy
wins Landmarks Award