

Chapter 97 - SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Footnotes:

— (1) —

Editor's note— Ord. No. 20-24, adopted Sept. 8, 2020, enacting Ch. 97, shall take effect on March 1, 2021.

7:650. - Legislative purpose.

The city has determined that regulation of short-term rentals is necessary to establish a community standard for the integration of short-term rental units in the city to ensure health, safety, and welfare of visitors and residents by re-affirming police, fire, and building safety guidelines. Towards that end, the city has determined that all persons or entities that desire to operate a short-term rental unit within the city must be issued a license pursuant to the requirements of this chapter.

(Ord. No. 20-24, § 1, 9-8-20, eff. 3-1-21)

7:651. - Definitions.

Guest means persons renting lodging from a short-term rental host, or through a hosting platform on behalf of the short-term rental host, for less than 30 consecutive days.

Host means a person engaged in providing a short-term rental unit.

Hosting platform means a marketplace in any form or format which facilitates short-term rental units, through advertising, matchmaking or any other means.

Mixed-use zoning district means a mixed-used zoning district as designated by section 5.12 of the UDC.

Permanent resident means the person(s) occupying a property as their principal residence.

Principal residence means the one residence where an owner of the property, or tenant of a period greater than 30 days, has his or her true, fixed, and permanent home to which, whenever absent, he or she intends to return and that shall continue as a principal residence until another principal residence is established.

Residential zoning district, means a residential zoning district as designated by section 5.11 of the UDC.

Short-term rental unit means any dwelling that is rented wholly or partly for compensation, for periods of 30 consecutive days or less, by persons other than the permanent resident or owner including:

- (1) *Non-principal residence short-term rental (or commercial rental)* means an activity where the owner of a non-principal residence hosts visitors, for compensation, for periods of 30 consecutive days or less.
- (2) *Principal residence homestay* means an activity whereby the permanent resident(s) host visitors in their homes, for compensation, for periods of 30 consecutive days or less, while at least one of the permanent residents lives on-site in the dwelling unit, throughout the visitors' stay.
- (3) *Principal residence whole house* means an activity whereby the permanent resident(s) host visitors in their homes, for compensation, for periods of 30 consecutive days or less, while a residential dwelling unit is not occupied by the owner of record while the guest is present.

UDC means Unified Development Code (Chapter 55 of Ann Arbor City Code).

(Ord. No. 20-24, § 1, 9-8-20, eff. 3-1-21)

7:652. - Short-term rental unit license and fee.

- (1) The city shall only issue a short-term rental license for a short-term rental unit to the owner or permanent resident of the property.
- (2) The city shall issue only 1 short-term rental license per dwelling unit.
- (3) The application for a short-term rental license shall at a minimum include the following:
 - a. Address of the short-term rental unit.
 - b. Type of dwelling unit (e.g., single-family home, apartment, condominium).
 - c. Type of short-term rental unit (non-principal residence, principal residence homestay, principal residence whole house).
 - d. For principal residence short-term rental unit, the permanent resident shall submit a sworn statement affirming that the licensed dwelling unit is and will remain the applicant's principal residence for the duration of the license.
 - e. Number of bedrooms available for rent.
 - f. Maximum permitted occupancy pursuant to section 5.16.1.A.2 of the UDC, "limits on occupancy of dwelling unit."
 - g. The names, telephone numbers, and email addresses of 2 contact persons responsible for the short-term rental unit. For principal residence homestay and principal residence whole house short-term rental units at least 1 of the contact persons shall be a permanent resident of the property. Contact information shall be updated with the city as necessary.
- (4) Applicant shall pay the fee described in subsection (7).
- (5) The short-term rental license shall not be transferred or assigned to another person or address, nor shall the license authorize any person, other than the person named therein, to operate a short-term rental unit on the property.
- (6) Any licensee that has submitted a sworn statement pursuant to paragraphs (3) of this section as part of its original application shall complete the following each year within 30 days of the anniversary of the original issuance of the license:
 - a. For principal residence short-term rental units, the permanent resident shall submit a sworn statement affirming that the licensed dwelling unit continues to be the applicant's principal residence.
 - b. Pay the fee described in subsection (7) "short-term rental licensing fees."
- (7) Short-term rental licensing fee.
 - a. The applicant of the property shall be responsible for payment of a nonrefundable license fee, with the license fee amount to be determined by annual resolution of City Council.

(Ord. No. 20-24, § 1, 9-8-20, eff. 3-1-21)

7:653. - Short-term rental unit requirements.

- (1) Short-term rental units are prohibited unless the city has issued a short-term rental license for the unit.
- (2) The occupancy of a dwelling unit rented as a short-term rental shall not exceed the occupancy permitted pursuant to section 5.16.1.a.2 of the UDC, "limits on occupancy of dwelling unit."
- (3) No host shall rent a short-term rental unit in a manner that requires a person to sleep in an area that is not habitable as set forth in chapter 105 (Housing Code).
- (4) No host shall advertise a short-term rental unit, unless the advertisement includes the applicant's short-term rental unit license number and the maximum occupancy permitted in the unit.
- (5) The short-term rental unit host shall be responsible for all nuisance and enforcement complaints on their premises.

(Ord. No. 20-24, § 1, 9-8-20, eff. 3-1-21)

7:654. - Specific regulations by short-term rental type.

- (1) *Non-principal residence short-term rental (commercial rental)*.
 - a. *Location*. Licenses for non-principal residence short-term rental units (commercial rental) shall only be issued for short-term rentals in mixed-use zoning districts.
 - b. *Registration and license*. Registration and license shall be required as set forth in section 7:652 of this chapter.
 - c. Chapter 105 (Housing Code). All applicable provisions of chapter 105 (Housing Code) shall apply.
- (2) *Principal residence homestay and principal residence whole house short-term rental units*.
 - a. *Location*. Licenses for principal residence homestay and principal residence whole house shall only be issued for short-term rental units in residential and mixed-use districts.
 - b. *Registration and license*. Registration and license shall be required as set forth in section 7:652 of this chapter.
 - c. *Inspection*. Principal residence homestay or principal residence whole house short-term rental units shall not require an inspection.

(Ord. No. 20-24, § 1, 9-8-20, eff. 3-1-21)

7:655. - Prohibited acts and penalties.

- (1) *Prohibited acts*.
 - a. It shall be unlawful for any person to:
 - i. Violate any provision of this chapter or any condition of any license granted pursuant to this chapter.
 - ii. Make any changes or allow any changes to be made in the operation of the short term rental unit as represented in the license application, without first notifying the city by amending the application.
- (2) *License revocation*.
 - a. The city finds that the suspension or revocation of a license may be necessary when an owner fails to operate the short-term rental unit in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. A license issued under this chapter may be suspended or revoked for any of the following violations:
 - i. A license holder is convicted of or found responsible for violating any provision of this chapter;
 - ii. A license application contains any misrepresentation or omission of any material fact, or false or misleading information, or the license applicant has provided the city with any other false or misleading information related to the short-term rental unit;
 - iii. The short-term rental unit is operated or is operating in violation of the specifications of the license application, any conditions of approval by the city or any other applicable state or local law, rule or regulation;
 - iv. The short-term rental unit is determined by the city to have become a public nuisance;
- (3) *Revocation not exclusive penalty*.
 - a. Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to prohibit the City Administrator or designee from imposing other penalties authorized by the Ann Arbor City Code or other ordinance or to file a public nuisance lawsuit or to take any other legal action authorized by law.
- (4) *Penalty for violations of chapter 97*.
 - a. Any person who violates a provision of this chapter shall be responsible for a civil infraction punishable by a civil fine of not more than \$500.00, plus costs and all other remedies available by statute. Each day of violation shall be a separate violation.

(Ord. No. 20-24, § 1, 9-8-20, eff. 3-1-21)