

June 17, 2019

FOI No: 2019-24

VIA E-MAIL – Redacted S. 22

Redacted S. 22

Dear Redacted S. 22

Re: Request for Records
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The City of White Rock has processed your request for access to the following information pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act)*:

- 1) *the list of addresses for those houses and homes that are currently paying Secondary Suite Permit fees and Short Term Vacation Rental Business License fees as non complying residences while the City investigates and works with the owners to get them in compliance with our City Bylaws regarding Secondary Suite Permits and Short Term Vacation Rentals*
- 2) *a copy of all reports regarding these addresses and copies of any building permits that have been issued or are currently valid for these residences*
- 3) *a list of those residences that have been completely shut down for refusing to comply with our Secondary Suite Permit Bylaws, Business License requirements for Short Term Vacation rentals or to bring their residences up to code for these uses.*

There are no responsive records to your request. As mentioned in my recent correspondence:

- 1) There are no residents that have paid a secondary suite permit fee and short-term vacation business licence fee that remain non-compliant with City Bylaws. You cannot obtain a short-term vacation business licence (or pay the fee) if you have not obtained a secondary suite permit. This means that if you have a short-term vacation business licence you are fully permitted and licensed.

Corporate Administration

P: 604.541.2212 | F: 604.541.9348

City of White Rock

15322 Buena Vista Avenue, White Rock BC, Canada V4B 1Y6

WHITE ROCK
City by the Sea!

www.whiterockcity.ca

- 2) Because there are no homes that meet the criteria for item 1), there are also no responsive reports under item 2).
- 3) No residences have been "completely shut down for refusal to comply" with City Bylaws. Some residences that are unable or unwilling to obtain a short-term vacation rental business licence have to forgo that use, but remain permitted as a secondary suite. In other cases, non-conforming residences that are unable or unwilling to obtain a secondary suite building permit have elected to decommission (i.e. remove) the secondary suite.

For clarity, the City approaches permitting and enforcement for secondary suites differently from licensing and enforcement for short-term vacation rentals. When the City becomes aware that a residence has an un-permitted secondary suite, the owner is immediately billed additional utility fees and given either thirty days to decommission the suite (perhaps slightly longer if an eviction is required) or up to six months to obtain a secondary suite permit. This six-month period allows owners sufficient time to bring the suite into compliance with City Bylaws and the BC Building Code, which are requirements for a secondary suite permit.

When the City becomes aware of an unlicensed short-term vacation rental, the owner is immediately ordered to discontinue that use. There is no compliance period. An owner cannot use their home for short-term vacation rental without a licence. Any owner who continues to operate short-term vacation rental without a licence is liable to be issued a ticket.

I hope that this answers your questions. Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Ken Overton
Manager, Property, Risk Management, and FOI
604-541-2104

If you believe that the City of White Rock has been unreasonable in its handling of your request, you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review our response. You have 30 days from receipt of this notice to request a review by writing to:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
3rd Floor, 756 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8W 1H2

Should you decide to request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with:

1. your name, address and telephone number;
2. a copy of this letter;
3. a copy of your original request sent to the City of White Rock; and
4. the reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.