



CITY OF SAVANNAH—CITY COUNCIL

Detric Leggett
Alderman, District 2

February 28, 2021

Dear Small Business Owner,

You may have seen that laws concerning Short Term Rentals are being considered in Atlanta.

I'm writing to assure you I appreciate your hard work, and to assure you that I know it is my job to represent you and protect your business.

I happen to believe in the STR business, and I personally feel your guests, throughout the pandemic, have been a significant force in helping the other small businesses close to your property. I also appreciate that you are the source of dollars for countless individuals in Savannah who help you with your housekeeping, gardening, and all the small and large jobs every homeowner is faced with constantly.

There are other Council members who would like to see STR expand into their districts. For that to happen, it would have to be managed. We need to avoid the mistakes we all suffered through as this industry first came to Savannah. We also now can organize resources to help new STR, establish their small business.

However, we must first understand and address the ongoing problems that still exist in our historic districts. We have to hold some owners accountable. The old saying "a few bad apples spoils the whole bushel", has never been truer. I have now been called twice at 3am by neighbors of a STR of Harris St. I went both times to break up the 'party'. This is unacceptable.

The overwhelming number of STR Owners in Savannah spend their days helping people and building very well-run businesses. They are a tribute to the, 'Hostess City', and her beautiful as visitors come so they can explore the restored, preserved Federalist, Italianate, Georgian, Romanesque, Gothic and Greek revival homes and buildings, that we enjoy every day.

I've established a Task Force. I am hoping that you will be involved with me and the Task Force as we move forward to support our neighborhoods, our residents, and our property owners who decided to establish a Short Term Rental business in a residential property.

I am very pleased that Joyce Piersanti has agreed to take the leadership position of the Task Force. I am always available to you by telephone at: (912) 346-8176 or by email at: DLeggett@Savannahga.Gov. – However, to expedite the Task Force, Joyce and I will be calling you in hopes that we will all be working together.

Sincerely,

Alderman Detric Leggett
Savannah City District Two