



Statement of Objection to current policy

The current process to become a legal Bed & Breakfast in the City of Sweet Home requires a "Conditional Use Permit". With that comes a Public Notice and Hearing so that anyone may comment on the use of your property. Once this step is cleared one may get a Business License to become a legal Bed and Breakfast. This allows the property owner to get a return on their investment and the City to collect a Transient Tax (not sales tax). This is a Win-Win for all.

As someone who has worked very hard to create a "Private Paradise" in the middle of this City, the last thing I want, is to tell the entire town about it. This "Paradise" is created to attract transient visitors and send them home with a memorable experience. This doesn't mean that ALL are invited to come and see what's going on because they received a Public Notice. That would create traffic on a narrow road that has nowhere to turn around except in other residence's private driveways. My guests have room to turn around on my property. I also would not like people to know that the property may sometimes be vacant and become a target for theft and vandalism. If someone with that kind of mindset puts this property on their radar, it threatens not only MY safety but that of guests who will speak ill of Sweet Home. I LIVE HERE! I don't want to be exposed and have that kind of worry.

I understand the concept of a "Conditional Use Permit" and for a standard "Commercial" property going into a neighborhood it makes sense. It can impact the ingress and egress as well as their peace.

A Bed and Breakfast is not a "Commercial" business in that sense. People rent them to get away from staying in hotels with lots of other guests. They also enjoy living like a local for the time they are there. Or they like the home away from home concept.

The reality is whether I am here with & without visitors, it would NOT impact the neighborhood differently to have B&B guests.

I cannot speak for others, but if it were me hosting a B&B, I would not have any more than 4 people here and most likely 1 car. Frankly that is less impact than my personal traffic.

The bottom line is: A Conditional Use Permit and all that it entails is NOT the way to handle a property that can become a reputable B&B creating a revenue stream for all of us.

I would recommend you find another way to handle this process making it simple and user friendly. Then all that want to run a B&B would be happy to sign up for a license. Maybe make it a permit process that requires an inspection. Then you can verify it is worthy of representing the City of Sweet Home.

I would like to hear your thoughts on this matter and would be happy to assist in making this a win-win for all involved.

Feel free to contact me (for now my property is to remain anonymous)

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