

ORDINANCE 1-2020-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 5 OF THE OFFICIAL CITY CODE TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER ENTITLED "SHORT-TERM RENTALS" TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO SHORT-TERM RENTAL UNITS.

WHEREAS, with the rise of the sharing economy, the City of Clarksville and cities across the country have seen growth in the popularity of short-term rentals, which are rentals of residential units or dwellings for up to thirty consecutive days; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of a regulatory framework, the City of Clarksville cannot monitor these short-term rental listings and cannot ensure public safety; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds the best approach to the regulation of short-term rentals is a permit scheme that balances the protection of neighborhoods with the interests of individuals who want to rent their property on a short-term basis; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that any short-term rental permitting regulatory scheme should impose minimum safety requirements to protect renters and neighboring properties, and should provide for the collection of applicable taxes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it to be in the best interest of the City and its residents, to include public health and safety, to regulate the operation of short-term rentals within the City of Clarksville.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLARKSVILLE:

The Clarksville City Code, Title 5 (Business, Professions, and Occupations) is hereby amended by adding a new Chapter 3 (Short-Term Rentals) as set forth below:

Section 5-301. Purpose. The City Council finds that the following regulations of Short-Term Rental Units are necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Section 5-302. Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this Chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Chapter. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely advisory.

(a) *Code Official.* A City Code Enforcement Officer or the Building Official.

(b) *Consideration.* The charge, whether or not received, for occupancy in a ShortTerm Rental Unit valued in money, whether to be received in money, goods, labor, or otherwise, including all receipts, cash, credits, property and services of any kind or nature. Nothing in this definition shall be construed to mean that consideration is charged when the Short-Term Rental Unit provided to the Transient Guest(s) is complimentary from the Owner and no consideration of any type is charged to, or received from, any person.

- (c) *Contiguous Property.* Any property that is directly adjacent to the property on which a Short-Term Rental Unit is located, or which is across any street, road, highway, or alley from any property on which a Short-Term Rental Unit is located, and which is within one-hundred (100) feet of the nearest property boundary line of any property on which a Short-Term Rental Unit is located.
- (d) *Dwelling Unit.* A cabin, house, house trailer or mobile home, or structure used or designed to be used as an abode or home of a person, family, or household, and includes a single-family dwelling, a portion of a single-family dwelling, or an individual residential dwelling in a multi-dwelling building, such as a duplex, triplex, an apartment building, condominium, cooperative, or timeshare.
- (e) *Hosting Platform.* A person or entity that facilitates the booking of a Short-Term Rental Unit.

"Facilitate" includes, but is not limited to, the act of allowing an Owner to offer to list or advertise, typically for a charge or fee, the Short-Term Rental Unit on an Internet website, in a print publication, or through another forum provided or maintained by the Hosting Platform.
- (f) *Non-Residential District.* Any zoning district designated in the City of Clarksville that allows residential uses but is not a Residential District.
- (g) *Occupancy.* The use or possession, or the right to the use or possession, of any room(s), lodgings, or accommodations in any Short-Term Rental Unit.
- (h) *Operating Permit.* The city-issued document authorizing an Owner to operate a Short-Term Rental Unit within the City of Clarksville.
- (i) *Owner.* The person who owns property held out as a Short-Term Rental Unit.
- (j) *Residential District.* Any zoning district designated in the City of Clarksville where the principal permitted uses in the district include residential uses, including houses, duplexes, and multi-dwelling structures.
- (k) *Short-Term Rental Unit.* A dwelling unit, a portion of a dwelling unit, or any other structure or space that is occupied or intended or designed or advertised for occupancy by Transient Guests for dwelling, lodging, or sleeping, and which is offered to Transient Guests for Consideration for a period of up to 30 consecutive calendar days. Short-Term Rental Units shall not include dwelling units owned by the federal government, the state, or any of their agencies or political subdivisions; facilities licensed by the state as healthcare facilities, including temporary family healthcare structures; hotels; inns; motels; boarding houses; Bed and Breakfast establishments approved by the City of Clarksville pursuant to the Clarksville Zoning Ordinance; campgrounds; recreational vehicles or campers, or dwelling units rented to the same occupant(s) for more than thirty continuous days.
- (l) *Transient Guest.* A person who occupies a dwelling unit or portion thereof, other than his or her usual place of residence, in exchange for consideration.

Section 5-303. Permit Required for Operation of a Short-Term Rental Unit.

- (a) *Operating Permit Required.* It shall be unlawful to operate or advertise any Short-Term Rental Unit within the City of Clarksville without a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit issued under this Chapter, except as otherwise provided herein.
- (b) *Continued use for properties already being used as short-term rental.* In accordance with T.C.A. § 13-7-603, as may be amended from time to time, this Short-Term Rental Ordinance shall not apply to any property that was being used as a Short-Term Rental Unit by the owner of the property prior to the Clarksville City Council's enactment of this Chapter. The definition of "Used as a short-term rental unit" contained in T.C.A. § 13-7-602, as may be amended from time to time, shall be used in determining whether a property was being used as a Short-Term Rental Unit by the Owner of the property prior to enactment of this Chapter. In accordance with T.C.A. § 13-7-604(b)(3), as may be amended from time to time, any property being used as a Short-Term Rental Unit by the Owner of the property prior to enactment of this Chapter may continue operating said property as a Short-Term Rental Unit, without securing a permit, until the property is sold, transferred, ceases being used as a Short-Term Rental Unit for a period of thirty (30) continuous months, or has been in violation of a generally applicable local law three (3) or more separate times with no appeal rights remaining for any of the three (3) violations.

Section 5-304. Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit Application; Permit Availability; Application Form and Fee; Right of Entry.

- (a) *Application.* Except as otherwise provided herein, every Owner desiring to operate a Short-Term Rental Unit shall submit an application for an Operating Permit to the Clarksville Department of Finance and Revenue. Each application shall contain all of the following information, along with a sworn statement that the information being provided is true and accurate, upon penalty of perjury. The permit application shall not be considered complete until all information specified by the application form and required by this chapter, as determined by the Department of Finance and Revenue, has been completed by the applicant.
- (1) *Acknowledgement of Regulations and Obligation to Pay Hotel / Motel Tax; Submission of Proof of Business License.* The applicant shall include with his or her application a written acknowledgement by the Owner that he/she has read all regulations of this Chapter pertaining to the operation of a Short-Term Rental Unit, that the applicant will comply with and pay as required by law any hotel/motel tax requirements as levied or assessed by the City, Montgomery County, and / or the State of Tennessee, and shall submit a statement that the applicant has obtained a City of Clarksville business license and attach a copy of same thereto.
 - (2) *Affidavit of Life Safety Compliance.* An application for an Operating Permit shall be accompanied by an affidavit from the applicant verifying the number and room location(s) of all required life safety equipment, and that all such equipment is currently fully operational at the time of the application for the Short-Term Rental Unit. All such life safety equipment will be subject to verification or inspection.

(3) *Local Contact Person(s)*. A person or persons designated by the Owner who shall be available twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week for the purpose of: (i) being able to respond, as necessary, within forty-five (45) minutes of notification of a complaint regarding the condition, operation, or conduct of occupants of the Short-Term Rental Unit, and (ii) taking remedial action necessary to resolve any such complaints. The Local Contact Person(s) may be the Owner or an Owner's agent. If not the Owner, the full legal name, residential street and mailing addresses, the e-mail address, and the telephone number of the Local Contact Person(s) shall be provided.

(4) *Owner Information*. The full legal name, street and mailing addresses, the e-mail address, and the telephone number of the Owner of the property sought to be used as a Short-Term Rental Unit and, in cases where a business entity or trust is the owner of the property that is sought to be used as a Short-Term Rental Unit, the individual who has the responsibility to oversee the ownership of the property sought to be used as a Short-Term Rental Unit on behalf of the business entity or trust, including the mailing address, the e-mail address, and the telephone number of the individual having such responsibility. If the Owner of a Short-Term Rental Unit is a business entity, information and documentation is required demonstrating the Owner's valid status with the Tennessee Secretary of State.

(5) *Site Plan*. A site plan and floor plan accurately and clearly depicting the size and location of the existing dwelling and the approximate square footage in the dwelling, the number and location of designated off-street parking spaces and the maximum number of vehicles allowed for overnight occupants. The floor plan shall describe the use of each room in the dwelling, the number, location and approximate square footage of all bedrooms, and any accessory buildings, including but not limited to garages and accessory dwelling structures or units.

(6) *Confirmation regarding private agreements*. Written acknowledgement by the Owner that he/she/it is solely responsible for confirming and that he/she/it has confirmed that operating the Short-Term Rental Unit would not violate any Home Owners Association agreement or bylaws, Condominium Agreement, Covenants, and / or Restrictions, mortgage agreement, insurance contract, or any other contract or agreement governing and limiting the use of the proposed Short-Term Rental Unit.

(7) Reserved.

(8) Reserved.

(b) *Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit Availability*.

(1) *Generally*. A Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit is available in any Residential or Non-Residential Districts upon meeting the criteria in this

Chapter. A Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit may be issued only to the Owner of the Short-Term Rental Unit.

- (2) *Proof of Ownership.* Ownership shall be established by the deed for the property as recorded in the office of the Montgomery County, Tennessee, Register of Deeds.

(c) *Operating Permit Application Form.* The Department of Finance and Revenue shall develop and supply Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit application forms for use by applicants, which shall contain such questions and acknowledgements as are specified herein, to be answered and acknowledged by the applicant under oath and notarized.

(d) *Fees.* An administrative processing and inspection permit fee in the amount of one-hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) shall be paid to the Clarksville Department of Finance and Revenue at the time an application for a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit is submitted. There shall be no proration of fees. Application fees shall be non-refundable.

(e) *Right of Entry of Fire Department and Building and Codes Department.* The submission of an application for a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit shall constitute consent of the applicant to permit the Clarksville Fire Rescue Department and the Clarksville Department of Building and Codes to conduct inspections of the Short-Term Rental Unit, from time to time, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or during the hours such Short-Term Rental Unit is being rented, to ensure the Short-Term Rental Unit is complying with the requirements of this Chapter, other city ordinances, and state/federal laws and regulations.

Section 5-305. Administrative Processing and Inspections; Issuance.

- (a) Once the Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit application is considered complete by the Department of Finance and Revenue, to include the payment of any required fee(s), the original application shall be date-stamped and retained by the Department of Finance and Revenue. The Department of Finance and Revenue shall then forward a copy of the completed application to the Fire and Rescue Department and to the Building and Codes Department for further review and inspections.
- (b) The Fire and Rescue Department shall conduct a fire and life safety inspection of the Short-Term Rental Unit within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date the application is accepted by the Department of Finance and Revenue to ensure that all required fire and life safety equipment is currently operable, and that the Short-Term Rental Unit is in compliance with all applicable fire codes, laws, and regulations. As part of the inspection, the Fire and Rescue Department shall determine the maximum occupancy of Transient Guests for the Short-Term Rental Unit. Upon completion of the fire and life safety inspection, the Fire and Rescue Department shall annotate on a form developed in coordination with the Building and Codes Department whether the Short-Term Rental Unit passed or failed the fire and life safety inspection, and if it failed, shall provide a short and plain summary of the reasons why the Short-Term Rental Unit failed the inspection, and shall cite to the applicable provision(s) of the fire codes, laws, or regulations at issue. In the event of failure of the fire and life safety inspection, an applicant may request a re-inspection, whereupon the applicant shall have ten (10) days from the date of the failed fire and life safety inspection to correct any deficiencies and pass a re-inspection. An applicant shall only be permitted one

opportunity for a fire and life safety re-inspection.

- (c) The Department of Building and Codes shall conduct a building safety inspection of the Short-Term Rental Unit within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date the application is accepted by the Department of Finance and Revenue to ensure compliance with all applicable building, gas, electrical, and plumbing codes, laws, and regulations. Upon completion of the building safety inspection, the Department of Building and Codes shall annotate on the form developed in coordination with the Fire and Rescue Department, whether the Short-Term Rental Unit passed or failed the building safety inspection, and if it failed, shall provide a short and plain summary of the reasons why the Short-Term Rental Unit failed the building safety inspection and shall cite to the applicable provision(s) of the building safety codes, laws, or regulations at issue. In the event of failure of the building safety inspection, an applicant may request a re-inspection, whereupon the applicant shall have ten (10) days from the date of the failed building safety inspection to correct any deficiencies and pass a re-inspection. An applicant shall only be permitted one opportunity for a building safety re-inspection.
- (d) Within fifteen (15) days of the date of successful completion of the fire and life safety inspection and the building safety inspection (whichever comes later), the Department of Building and Codes shall make a final determination whether the application should be approved or denied.
- (e) If the Department of Building and Codes determines that the application or the Short-Term Rental Unit does not conform to the requirements of this Chapter, or to other applicable laws or regulations, the application for a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit shall be denied. Within five (5) days of any decision denying an application for an Operating Permit, the Department of Finance and Revenue shall inform the applicant of the denial in writing and shall explain the reason(s) for the denial in writing.
- (f) Upon successful completion of all required inspections and payment of the necessary fee(s), if the Department of Building and Codes is satisfied that the application and the Short-Term Rental Unit conform to the requirements of this Chapter and to all other applicable laws and regulations, within five (5) days of approval of the Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit application by the Department of Building and Codes, the Department of Finance and Revenue shall inform the applicant of the approval in writing and shall issue a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit to the applicant using a permit form developed by the Department of Finance and Revenue in coordination with the Fire and Rescue Department and the Department of Building and Codes. The Operating Permit shall specify the maximum occupancy of Transient Guests permitted within the Short-Term Rental Unit.
- (g) All permits, whether an original permit or a renewal permit, shall pertain only to one single Short-Term Rental Unit as defined herein, and shall be separately numbered, and the Department of Finance and Revenue shall keep a duplicate of each original permit issued.
- (h) Once issued, the Short-Term Rental Operating Permit shall be valid for one (1) calendar year from the date of issuance, unless the Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit is suspended or revoked pursuant to this Chapter, or otherwise terminated by operation of, or in accordance with, law.

Section 5-306. Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit Renewals.

Unless suspended or revoked for a violation of any provision of this Chapter or other applicable law or regulation, a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit may be renewed annually, provided that an applicant submits a renewal application and processing fee of one-hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00) no later than thirty (30) calendar days before the Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit's expiration. An application for renewal of a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit, which shall include an updated acknowledgement of rules signed by the Owner; an updated affidavit of life safety compliance signed by the Owner; any updated information regarding the Local Contact Person; any updated Owner information; an updated confirmation regarding private agreements signed by the Owner; an updated proof of insurance; and proof of payment of all taxes due, shall be made through the Department of Finance and Revenue. Upon receipt of an application for renewal, together with the renewal application fee, an inspection of the Short-Term Rental Unit, in accordance with the provisions of **Section 5-305** above, shall be made to ensure compliance with all fire safety and building safety requirements. After the Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit's expiration, the holder of the Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit forfeits the right to renew, and the Owner must reapply for a new Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit. A renewed Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Renewal Permit shall be valid for one (1) calendar year from the date of issuance.

Section 5-307. Prohibition Against Transfer.

- (a) *Generally.* No person holding a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit shall sell, lend, lease, or in any manner transfer the permit for value.
- (b) *Permission.* The permission to operate a Short-Term Rental Unit under a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit shall be personal and limited to the Owner to whom the City issued the permit. A Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit shall terminate immediately upon the transfer of the property covered by the permit, whether such transfer is by deed, by law, or otherwise.
- (c) *Transfers Invalid.* Any unauthorized transfer or attempt to transfer a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit shall automatically void such permit. Persons violating this provision, including both the transferor and transferee, may be subject to a citation and fine. Each unauthorized transfer or attempt to transfer of a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit shall constitute a separate violation, and the penalty for such violation shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day.

Section 5-308. No Vested Rights.

The provisions of this Chapter concerning Short-Term Rental Units are not a grant of vested rights to continue to operate any Short-Term Rental Unit indefinitely. Any Short-Term Rental Unit use, operation, and / or permits for Short-Term Rental Units are subject to the provisions of ordinances, resolutions, or other City measures, to include declarations of states of emergency, concerning Short-Term Rental Units that may be enacted or adopted at a later date, even though such ordinances, resolutions, or other city measures may change the terms, conditions, allowance, or duration for Short-Term Rental Unit use or operation, including but not limited to

those that may terminate some or all Short-Term Rental Unit uses or operations, with or without some period of amortization. While this recitation concerning vested rights is implicit in any uses permitted by the City, this explicit recitation is set forth to avoid any uncertainty or confusion. This Chapter is expressly declared to be enacted pursuant to general police powers, to include those pertaining to general health and welfare, building and fire safety, and is not to be construed as a zoning law.

Section 5-309. Compliance with Laws; Complaints; Remedies; and Permit Revocation.

- (a) *Compliance with city, state, and federal Laws.* It shall be unlawful to operate a Short-Term Rental Unit that does not comply with all applicable city, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- (b) *Operation without permit deemed public safety hazard.* Except as otherwise provided herein, any Short-Term Rental Unit operating or advertising for operation without a valid Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit shall be deemed a public safety hazard. The City may issue, and the Owner or the Local Contact Person may receive, a civil citation for operating or advertising for operation without a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit. Such civil citations will be adjudicated in the Clarksville City Court.
- (c) *Public nuisance.* It is unlawful and a violation of this Chapter and is hereby declared a public nuisance for any person to commit, cause, or maintain a violation of any provision or fail to comply with any of the requirements of this Chapter. The City may issue and the Owner, the occupants, or the Local Contact Person may receive a civil citation for any violation of this Chapter or any other City ordinance by the Owner, the Local Contact Person, or the occupants of the Short-Term Rental Unit. Such civil citations will be adjudicated in the Clarksville City Court.
- (d) *Complaints.* If a complaint is filed with the City of Clarksville alleging that the Owner has violated the provisions of this Chapter or any other applicable City ordinance or State law, a Code Official shall provide written notification of the complaint by registered mail to the Owner at the Owner's address listed on the application, and the Code Official shall investigate the complaint and inspect the property being used as a Short-Term Rental. Within twenty (20) days of the date that the notification was sent to the Owner, the Owner may respond to the complaint, present evidence, and respond to evidence produced by the investigation. If the Code Official finds the complaint to be supported by a preponderance of the evidence, the Code Official may suspend or revoke the Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit or take or cause to be taken other enforcement action as provided herein or elsewhere in the City Code. Any false complaint made against a Short-Term Rental Owner may be punishable as perjury under T.C.A. § 39-16-702, as may be amended from time to time.
- (e) *Revocation or Suspension of Permit.* The Code Official may suspend or revoke a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit if the Code Official discovers that (i) an applicant obtained the Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit by knowingly providing false information on the application; (ii) the continuation of the Short-Term Rental Unit presents a threat to public health or safety; or (iii) the Owner or Short-Term Rental Unit has violated any of the provisions of this Chapter or has violated any other City ordinance, State law, or Federal law related to the operation of the Short-Term Rental Unit.

- (f) *Effect of Revocation.* Should the Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit be revoked, in addition to any other penalty, there shall be a one-year waiting period from the date of revocation for the property to become eligible again for a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit. Upon reapplication, the Owner must pay the full permit fee.
- (g) *Appeal of Suspension or Revocation.* If a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit is suspended or revoked, the Code Official shall state the specific reason(s) for the suspension or revocation. Any Owner whose Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit has been suspended or revoked may appeal such suspension or revocation by submitting a written request to the Department of Building and Codes for a hearing before the Board of Adjustments and Appeals within twenty (20) calendar days of receiving the notice of suspension or revocation. A hearing date will be set within twenty (20) calendar days of the filing of an appeal. All hearings before the Board of Adjustments and Appeals shall be open to the public. The appellant, the appellant's representative, the Code Official or his/her designee, and any person whose interests are affected shall be given an opportunity to be heard. A quorum shall consist of not less than a majority of full membership of the Board of Adjustments and Appeals. The Board of Adjustments and Appeals may reverse or affirm, wholly or in part, or may modify the order, requirement, decision or determination appealed from and may make such order, requirement, decision, or determination as ought to be made. The decision of the Board of Adjustments and Appeals shall be the final administrative decision and shall be subject only to judicial review in the Circuit or Chancery Court pursuant to state law of general application. In addition to any other penalty imposed, if the decision of the Board of Adjustments and Appeals to revoke a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit is upheld, the Owner shall not be eligible to reapply for a new Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit for the premises for a period of one (1) year. Upon reapplication, the Owner shall be required to pay the full Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit application fee. During the pendency of any appeal to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals or to any Court as provided herein, the revocation or suspension decision of the Code Official or of the Board, respectively, shall remain in effect.
- (h) *Emergency Suspension.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, the chief of police, the fire chief, or the Code Official, or their designee(s), may temporarily suspend a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit and order a temporary cessation of Short-Term Rental operations in a situation involving an immediate danger to public health, safety, or welfare, or to investigate criminal activity that has allegedly occurred on the premises. The chief of police, the fire chief, or the Code Official, or their designee(s), shall give immediate written notice of the temporary suspension/cessation order to the Owner if present at the premises, or to the Local Contact Person or to any occupant, who shall be required to immediately comply with the order. Thereafter, within a reasonable time, using the most efficacious means possible, the chief of police, the fire chief, or the Code Official, or their designee(s), shall give written notice of the temporary suspension/cessation order to the permit holder, if not previously served, along with a brief statement of the facts and reasons for the decision to suspend the Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit and to terminate the operation of the Short-Term Rental Unit. Such notice shall state that the matter of the temporary suspension/cessation will be heard by the Board of Adjustments and Appeals at the first regularly scheduled board meeting thereafter, or at a special called board meeting, either of which to be held not later than five (5) calendar days from the date of issuance of

the temporary suspension/cessation order, unless the Owner shall request in writing additional time, not to exceed ten (10) days, said request to be filed with the board, during which time the temporary suspension/cessation shall continue. The temporary suspension and order of cessation shall be effective when issued by the chief of police, the fire chief, or the Code Official, or their designee(s), and shall remain in effect until the Board of Adjustments and Appeals reviews the facts, circumstances, and reasons for the temporary suspension and makes a determination whether there is just cause for the suspension to continue, but in no event shall the temporary suspension and cessation order continue beyond ten (10) calendar days without a hearing thereon by the Board of Adjustments and Appeals. At the public hearing, the board may, after a finding of just cause as provided herein, suspend the Operating Permit for a definite time period or may revoke the Operating Permit. If no finding of just cause is established, the board may immediately rescind the temporary suspension, lift the cessation order, and reinstate the Operating Permit.

Section 5-310. City Shall Have No Obligation to Enforce Private Rights or Agreements; No Third Party Beneficiaries.

The City of Clarksville shall not have any duty or obligation or be responsible for making a determination regarding whether the issuance of a Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit or the use of a dwelling as a Short-Term Rental Unit is permitted under any private agreement(s) or any covenants, conditions, and restrictions, or private codes, or under any of the regulations or rules of a homeowners' association or maintenance organization, condominium agreement, mortgage agreement, insurance contract, or any other contract or agreement that may be applicable governing and limiting the use of the Short-Term Rental Unit, and the City shall have no enforcement obligations in connection with such private agreements or covenants, conditions and restrictions or such regulations or rules. The provisions of this chapter, nor the approval of or issuance of any Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit shall not be construed to confer any third-party beneficiary status upon any person, business entity, organization or association as against the City of Clarksville.

Section 5-311. Operational Requirements.

- (a) *Safety Standards.* Notwithstanding any code provision to the contrary, during each Short-term Rental Unit Occupancy, each Short-term Rental Unit shall have, at minimum, the following life safety equipment on the premises and installed to manufacturer specifications: (i) a smoke alarm meeting Underwriters Laboratory (UL) 217 standards inside each sleeping room, outside of and within fifteen (15) feet of sleeping rooms, and on each story of the dwelling unit, including basements; (ii) a carbon monoxide detector within fifteen (15) feet of all bedrooms; and (iii) and a fire extinguisher. Every smoke and carbon monoxide alarm must function properly with the alarm sounding after pushing the test button and the fire extinguisher must be operational. It shall be unlawful to operate a Short-term Rental Unit without a smoke alarm, carbon monoxide detector, or fire extinguisher as required by this Chapter.
- (b) *Taxes.* All Short-Term Rental Unit Owners shall be responsible to pay all applicable taxes, including, but not limited to, real and personal property taxes, the hotel/motel tax, sales taxes, gross receipts taxes, and any employment and income taxes, as may be levied or assessed by the City, Montgomery County, the State of Tennessee, or the United States of America.

- (c) *Advertising.* It shall be unlawful to advertise any Short-Term Rental Unit without the Operating Permit number clearly displayed on the advertisement. For the purposes of this Chapter, the terms "advertise," "advertising" or "advertisement" mean the act of drawing the public's attention to a Short-Term Rental Unit in any forum, whether electronic or non-electronic, in any media or medium, in order to promote the availability of the Short-Term Rental Unit.
- (d) *Maximum Occupancy.* The maximum occupancy of any Short-Term Rental Unit by Transient Guests shall not exceed the maximum occupancy limits as prescribed by the Operating Permit. Simultaneous rental to more than one party under separate contracts shall be prohibited.
- (e) *Age Requirement.* The principal renter (Transient Guest) of a Short-Term Rental Unit shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- (f) *Use of Short-Term Rental Unit.* No Transient Guest may use a Short-Term Rental Unit for on-site business or commercial purposes during any rental period.
- (g) *Parking.* Each Short-Term Rental Unit shall provide at least one parking space per bedroom offered for rent.
- (h) Reserved.
- (i) Reserved.
- (j) *Food Service.* No food shall be prepared for, or served to, the Transient Guest(s) by the Owner for any consideration.
- (k) *Contact Information Shall Be Posted.* The name and telephone number of the Local Contact Person(s) shall be conspicuously posted within the Short-Term Rental Unit.
- (l) *Compliance with Clarksville City Code.* The Owner shall ensure that the use of the Short-Term Rental Unit complies with all applicable noise, nuisance, parking, trash, and property maintenance code, ordinances, regulations, and all other provisions of the City Code. A prohibition against making loud noise in such a manner as to disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of neighboring property owners shall be included in the Short-Term Rental Unit rules and contained in the Short-Term Rental Unit lease agreement.

Section 5-312. Effect of Chapter During Declared State of Emergency.

The provisions of this Chapter, in whole or in part, may be suspended during the pendency of any lawfully declared state of emergency issued by the President of the United States of America, the Governor of the State of Tennessee, or by the Mayor of the City of Clarksville, which may include, but is not limited to, a temporary prohibition on the rental of a Short-Term Rental Unit by an Owner who possesses an otherwise legally valid Short-Term Rental Unit Operating Permit, or on the use or occupation of same by any Transient Guest as defined herein, to the extent permitted or not otherwise prohibited by federal or state law of general application.

Section 5-313. Severability.

If any section, paragraph, sentence, phrase, term, or word of this Chapter for any reason be declared unlawful, invalid, unenforceable, or void, by a court or other administrative tribunal of competent jurisdiction, then the remainder of this chapter shall remain in full force and effect.

<i>AMENDED:</i>	July 2, 2020
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