



Oct. 29, 2015

City of Lakewood
Becky Newton, Economic Development Director
6000 Main Street SW
Lakewood, WA 98499-5027

Dear Ms. Newton,

I write this letter upon recently learning that an ordinance relating to mandatory rental housing registration and inspections is being considered by the City of Lakewood.

As the owner of a property management company in Lakewood, my initial response to such a proposed ordinance is one of opposition, for a variety of reasons.

- Problem properties are almost always already known by the City, and remedies for addressing the blight, waste, and danger already exist;
- Additional fees would be passed on to tenants, increasing the cost of rent;
- Including all rental properties in such a time-consuming and costly regulatory process -- including those that are in compliance with health, safety and landlord-tenant standards -- is an over-reach and is not necessary.

While I embrace and understand the City's desire to clean-up neighborhoods, mandatory rental housing registration and inspections is an over-reaction to the problem and I would discourage the City from considering adoption of such an ordinance. The City of Tacoma adopted in 2012 a successful provisional licensing program to clean up problem properties that would be worth reviewing.

I look forward to hearing more about this proposed ordinance. I am out of town and am unable to attend the public forum tonight, but would welcome the opportunity to participate in future discussion.

Sincerely,

Mike Larson
President/Designated Broker