

fire pit bylaw

John and Joyce Attwater [REDACTED]

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To: John and Joyce Attwater [REDACTED]



I understand that before items are dealt with by City Council, they are given to a committee to review ahead of time.

I would like to ask the City to review and change the by-law concerning burning/fire pits in the backyard and the landlord being held responsible.

The problem is not the hours from 2 - 11 p.m. but how the tickets are issued. If there is a violation, the fire department is called to check out the situation. The ticket is issued - not to the person standing by the fire and living in the house but the ticket is given to the landlord, who is not aware of the fire. My question is why? Why not give the ticket to the person who is breaking the by-law? The LL could be next door or miles away and has no knowledge of what is happening until the ticket arrives. I had no idea what the ticket was about. I have not received any pictures of the fire, no word from the fire department, just the ticket. I was told that I am responsible for what goes on in the rental yard.

It was 2 weeks from the date of the fire until I received the registered letter. If I want proof and details of any other warnings or situations occurring, I have to pay \$90 for typed out paperwork. It is decided I am guilty without any records presented to me.

If stolen goods are in the house or yard, if drug dealing is going on, and if a murder happens in the yard, I am not responsible and will not be given a ticket. But if a tenant starts a fire, I am to blame. Why?

I did not give the tenant the matches, nor the burning materials etc but I did get the ticket. The guilty party walks away and the LL is charged. The fire department spoke to the tenant at the fire and considered guilty of the offence but is not held accountable. The LL is basically fair game.

I was told to keep track of the tenant and what is happening in the yard. It is against ORT rules to constantly invade a tenant's privacy. Who can keep track of people 24 hours a day? Even parents do not always know what their children are doing in the day or evening or what a spouse is doing 24 hours per day. I could be driving away from the rental house after checking things, and the tenant could start a fire a minute later.

The charges have to be provable in court so why not take pictures of the fire and the tenant and his/her ID. It would be an open and shut case.

I was told to contact the City councilor for the area. I phoned and left messages 11 times plus sent an email and no reply. He had my name, address and email. The secretary is very thorough and took my info so there definitely is a record of my calls and was also told to phone in the evenings or weekends when he might be in.

The fire department has been reasonable and I do not have any complaints with them - it is the by-law that is the problem - not charging the offending party.

Please consider my request to change the by-law to make it fair and reasonable. In any situation, the guilty party should be responsible to their actions and not take it out on someone else.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Joyce Attwater