

ORDINANCE NO. 3925

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS, BY AMENDING ARTICLE XII – RENTAL HOUSING IN CHAPTER 18, “BUSINESSES,” BY ADDING A NEW DEFINITION FOR “BOARD” AS USED IN THE ARTICLE; REVISING THE DEFINITION FOR “BEDROOM”; ADDING A NEW DIVISION 3, “SHORT TERM RENTALS,” SETTING FORTH REGULATIONS FOR SHORT-TERM RENTALS IN THE CITY; ADDING A NEW DIVISION 6, “ENFORCEMENT; REMEDIES,” ESTABLISHING PROCESS FOR ENFORCING VIOLATIONS OF THE ARTICLE; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; ESTABLISHING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SAVINGS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of North Richland Hills, Texas is a home-rule municipality located in Tarrant County, Texas acting under its charter adopted by the electorate pursuant to Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution and Chapter 9 of the Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances, City of North Richland Hills, Texas, regulates businesses in operation in the City; and

WHEREAS, Article XII in Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances, City of North Richland Hills, Texas, regulates rental housing in the City; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to understand the impact of short-term rentals operating within the City, the City has collected extensive community input through an electronic survey, physical surveys distributed at a dedicated town hall meeting, comments made during such town hall meetings, email communications submitted, and comments made during public hearings specifically regarding short-term rentals and the regulation of same; and

WHEREAS, the City also obtained input and comments from the operators of short-term rentals through the same methods mentioned for community input, as well as through two meetings held specifically for operators to attend and provide feedback and input on short-term rentals and the regulation of same; and

WHEREAS, residents have reported adverse impacts from increased traffic, reckless driving, on-street parking congestion, loud noise, and public nuisances associated with short-term rental activity; and

WHEREAS, short-term rentals have, in certain instances, been the source of large gatherings, parties, and events incompatible with the residential character of single-family districts; and

WHEREAS, the operation of unauthorized short-term rentals in single-family neighborhoods has generated complaints regarding excessive noise, late-night disturbances, and the disruption of quiet enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, many residents stated that they did not anticipate transient lodging operations when they purchased their homes, and view such uses as incompatible with their expectations of neighborhood stability and residential character; and

WHEREAS, the frequent turnover of short-term rental occupants undermines long-term neighbor-to-neighbor relationships and erodes the fabric of the community by reducing communication, familiarity, and trust among residents; and

WHEREAS, neighborhoods have expressed concern that the continual turnover of transient occupants diminishes the sense of safety, predictability, and accountability that is characteristic of stable residential communities; and

WHEREAS, mapping and analysis of the input from residents demonstrates that the negative impacts associated with short-term rentals are widespread and concentrated in single-family neighborhoods across the City; and

WHEREAS, unregulated short-term rental activity contributes to congestion, on-street parking conflicts, and increased demand on public services; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this input, the City has reviewed data and information from other cities' experiences with short-term rentals and used all of this data and information to develop a regulatory structure; and

WHEREAS, further the American Planning Association has acknowledged that there are many reasons for regulating short-term rentals, including the potential for the transformation of peaceful residential communities into "communities of transients" where people are less interested in investing in one another's lives, the potential for knowing or unknowing violation of local rules resulting in public safety risks, noise issues, trash problems and parking problems, the so-called "party house" issues, less availability of affordable housing options and higher rents, negative impact on local service jobs, lost tax revenue, and to alleviate tension between operators and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is also aware of many articles, stories, and examples related to the public perception of the negative impacts of short-term rentals; and

WHEREAS, the use of single-family residences by individuals for short periods of time may negatively impact the residential character of many neighborhoods by reducing communication and accountability between permanent residents by partially substituting permanent residents with transient visitors; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of the use and operation of such short-term rental property is intended to prevent the further erosion of pre-existing and stable single-family neighborhoods, and further advance the City Council's goal of creating an exceptional quality of life for the community; and

WHEREAS, the rise of substitute land uses for residential property contributes to the shortage of affordable housing, both ownership and long-term rental; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that regulation of short-term rentals is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents and to prevent the public nuisances created by the operation of short-term rentals within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that regulation of short-term rentals is necessary to safeguard the life, safety, welfare, and property of short-term rental occupants, neighborhoods, and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that regulation of short-term rentals is necessary to minimize the adverse impacts resulting from increased transient rental uses in neighborhoods that were planned, approved, and constructed for single-family residences; and

WHEREAS, based upon the review of community feedback and data analysis, the City Council concludes that adoption of this Ordinance is in the best interest of the City and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City Council concludes that the adoption of this Ordinance is in the best interest of maintaining the stability, quiet, and repose of lower-density residential districts for single-family owners; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the proposed ordinance amendment promotes the health, safety, morals, and the general welfare within the City of North Richland Hills and is in the best interest of the City of North Richland Hills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1: Section 18-941 – Definitions, in Division 1 – In General, in Article XII – Rental Housing, in Chapter 18 – Businesses, in the Code of Ordinances, City of North Richland Hills, Texas, be amended by amending the definition for “Bedroom” and adding a definition for “Board” to read as follows:

“Bedroom” means a room intended for sleeping purposes, which meets the requirements of a sleeping room as defined by the International Building Code (IBC), including provisions for light, ventilation, egress, and minimum room dimensions.

“Board” means the Board of Adjustment of the City of North Richland Hills, Texas.”

SECTION 2: Article XII, “Rental Housing,” in Chapter 18, “Businesses,” of the Code of Ordinances, City of North Richland Hills, Texas, be amended by adding a new Division 3, “Short-Term Rentals,” to read as follows:

“DIVISION 3. SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Sec. 18-960. Purpose.

The purpose of this division is to establish regulations for the efficient establishment, operation, maintenance, and regulation of short-term rentals in the city by requiring a permit, providing for inspection, providing regulations, and providing for enforcement of same. This division will further serve the interests of the city by preserving the character, integrity, and stability of residential neighborhoods, ensuring the regular collection of hotel occupancy taxes, and protecting the public health and safety through the adoption of fire safety and public health and sanitation requirements, while balancing governmental interests appropriately with private property rights.

Sec. 18-961. Annual short-term rental permit; requirements.

- (a) No person may operate a short-term rental, and shall not offer for rent, lease, or occupancy, a short-term rental, without a current, valid annual permit from the city.
- (b) All annual permits shall expire on January 31 each year. A permit renewal application must be submitted between December 1 and January 31. If an original application is approved after December 1 and before January 31, that permit shall continue until January 31 of the following year.
- (c) An application for a permit shall be submitted on the form provided by the city. Each permit application shall be accompanied by a non-refundable fee in accordance with the city's master fee schedule, as amended. If a person other than the owner of the property submits an application, the application must be accompanied by written consent of the property owner.

- (d) An shall provide a floor plan and parking plan in conjunction with the permit application.
- (e) A permit will not be approved unless the applicant can provide proof that hotel occupancy tax has been paid to the city for all rentals of the property or that an approved payment arrangement is in place and all payments under the arrangement are current..
- (f) A permit will not be approved unless the applicant can demonstrate compliance with all of the requirements of this division.
- (g) A permit application is considered complete when a completed application form and all documentation required by this division has been submitted, all registration fees have been paid, and an initial inspection has successfully passed.
- (h) A permit will be issued upon satisfying all of the requirements of this section.
- (i) A permit to operate a short-term rental is not transferable to another owner, operator, or location.

Sec. 18-962. Inspections.

- (a) To ensure compliance with the requirements of this division, a short-term rental will be inspected as follows:
 - (1) An initial inspection shall be conducted after submission of an application for permit and before the permit is approved;
 - (2) Additional inspections may also be performed up to once per quarter to ensure compliance with this division; and
 - (3) An inspection may be performed any time the city receives a complaint alleging a violation of this division or of any city health and safety code.
- (b) The city shall provide the applicant or permit holder notice of the inspection by personal delivery, by email communication, or by certified mail at least ten (10) days prior to the inspection. The applicant or operator shall cooperate to allow an inspection within ten (10) days of delivery of the notice.
- (c) After each inspection, an inspection report shall be prepared detailing the findings of the inspection and shall note any violations of the city health and safety codes or this division. A copy of the report shall be delivered to the applicant or operator by personal delivery, by email communication, or by certified mail. When an inspection reveals any violation of the city health and safety codes or a violation of this division, the property may not be occupied or rented until all noted violations are corrected and the correction is verified through a reinspection.

- (d) If an inspection identifies a violation, the first reinspection shall not require the payment of a reinspection fee. Any additional reinspection may be charged a non-refundable reinspection fee in accordance with the city's master fee schedule, as amended.

Sec. 18-963. Local Point of Contact

- (a) A local point of contact must be provided and maintained for every short-term rental, including the name, mailing address, physical address, phone number, and email address. Any updates to the contact information for the local point of contact must be timely provided to the city.
- (b) The local point of contact must be available to receive and respond to complaints by phone 24-hours a day.
- (c) The local point of contact shall respond to a contact from the city about a complaint concerning the short-term rental or its occupants by contacting the city within sixty (60) minutes of the contact. The local point of contact shall contact the occupants to address the complaint within 60 minutes of responding to the city.

Sec. 18-964. Parking.

- (a) General Requirements. All parking must be on improved surfaces and shall not overhang or impede a sidewalk.
- (b) Single-family property. Parking for a short-term rental on a single-family property shall be limited to four (4) vehicles. All vehicle parking shall be limited to the garage and/or driveway of such premises, or along the curb immediately adjacent to the property. If on-street parking is not permitted on any street immediately adjacent to the property, all parking must be accommodated on the property.
- (c) Multifamily property. Parking for a short-term rental on a multifamily property must comply with the parking requirements for the multifamily complex, and all parking must be accommodated in locations designated for parking for the multifamily complex.

Sec. 18-965. Maximum Occupancy

- (a) The maximum occupancy rate for a short-term rental is that rate determined by the definition of maximum occupancy rate under this chapter.
- (b) It shall unlawful for an operator or occupant of a short-term rental to allow or cause the maximum occupancy rate for a short-term rental to be exceeded.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to advertise a short-term rental for an occupancy in excess of the maximum occupancy rate established by this section.

Sec. 18-966. Minimum stay required.

It shall be unlawful for an owner or operator to rent or lease a short-term rental for less than two (2) nights.

Sec. 18-967. Noise.

It shall be unlawful for the operator or occupant of a short-term rental to cause or allow unreasonably loud, disturbing, or unnecessary noise to leave the premises in violation of Section 34-33(23) of this code.

Sec. 18-968. Record-keeping.

- (a) Records of all bookings and fees collected for a short-term rental shall be maintained for a period of at least three years.
- (b) Such records shall be made available to the city upon request in order to determine compliance with this division.

Sec. 18-969. Health and safety

- (a) A short-term rental must comply with all applicable city health and safety codes, including but not limited to all building and fire codes.
- (b) In addition to all other health and safety code requirements, the following items must be provided in a short-term rental in accordance with the requirements of the city's adopted building and fire codes:
 - (1) working smoke detectors;
 - (2) working type A fire extinguishers; and
 - (3) carbon monoxide detectors.
- (c) The operator of a short-term rental must obtain annual independent inspections of all fire extinguishers.

Sec. 18-970. Advertisements and signage.

- (a) All advertisements and listing for a short-term rental must include the assigned permit number for the permit issued under this division.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to advertise a short-term rental without a current, active annual permit in accordance with this division.
- (c) It shall be unlawful to post external signage on the property of a short-term rental advertising the short-term rental.

Sec. 18-971. Guest safety notification and minimum requirements.

Each operator of a short-term rental unit shall provide written guest safety information which shall be displayed at all times inside the unit near the main entrance used by guests, and shall include the following minimum information:

- (1) The property address.

- (2) The owner's, operators, or local point of contact's name and 24-hour local contact telephone number.
- (3) Pertinent neighborhood information including, but not limited to, maximum occupancy, parking locations, and trash collection location and schedule.
- (4) Quiet hours are between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., Monday through Saturday and 10:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, as per city noise restrictions.
- (5) Information to assist guests in the case of an emergency posing threats to personal safety or damage to property, including emergency and non-emergency telephone numbers for police, fire, emergency medical services, and code compliance, and instructions for obtaining severe weather, natural or manmade disaster alerts and updates.
- (6) Depiction of floor plan identifying evacuation routes, including the dwelling's exits, primary evacuation routes and secondary evacuation routes.
- (7) If the property allows pets, the notice must also include notice that the City requires pets to be restrained by leash or other apparatus when not contained by fence or building.
- (8) A statement notifying the guest(s) that failure to comply with these regulations is a violation of city ordinance and may result in criminal prosecution and/or civil action.

Sec. 18-972. Hotel occupancy tax.

- (a) The operator of a short-term rental shall submit quarterly hotel occupancy tax reports to the city and pay the hotel occupancy tax to the city for all rental fees.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for a person to operate or allow the operation of a short-term rental without submitting the required hotel occupancy tax reports and paying the required hotel occupancy tax.

Sec. 18-973. General Requirements.

- (a) No person shall operate a short-term rental in a manner that does not comply with all applicable city and state codes and laws.
- (b) No person shall operate or allow the operation of a short-term rental with an active alarm system that has not been registered with the North Richland Hills Police Department.
- (c) No person shall use or permit the use of a short-term rental unit to promote or carry out activities that are illegal or for any commercial use other than an authorized home occupation under Sec. 118-727.

- (d) No person shall use or permit the use of tents, temporary structures, accessory buildings not intended for use or occupancy by guests, recreational/camper vehicles or other vehicles and outdoor areas that are not residential dwellings as short-term rentals.

Sec. 18-974. Denial of annual permit application; appeal.

- (a) An application for annual permit may be denied by the chief building official if:
 - (1) The application contains false information, is incomplete, or is not timely supplemented at the request of the city;
 - (2) The applicant has prevented, refused, or impaired an inspection under this division
 - (3) The applicant has actively concealed any condition that presents a threat to life, health, or safety or that is a violation of any provision of this division or any city health and safety code;
 - (4) The short-term rental is not in compliance with minimum standards imposed by this division or by the city health and safety codes; or
 - (5) A permit under this division for the short-term rental has been revoked within the last twelve (12) months.
- (b) The chief building official shall give written notice to the applicant if an annual permit is denied. A notice of denial shall identify the permit application, state with specificity the reason for the denial, and advise of the right to appeal the denial by quoting subsection (d). The notice shall be delivered to the applicant by personal delivery or by sending the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address on the permit application. The notice shall be deemed delivered upon personal delivery or three (3) days after being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service sent certified mail, return receipt requested, at the address for the applicant on the permit application.
- (c) A denial of a permit application is effective immediately upon delivery of the notice pursuant to subsection (b).
- (d) The applicant may appeal the denial of a permit to the Board . Notice of appeal must be submitted within twenty (20) calendar days from receipt of the notice denial. The notice of appeal must be submitted in writing to the Chief Building Official and the notice of appeal must identify the application, identify the property that is the subject of the application, state that the denial is being appealed to the Board of Adjustment, and state the grounds for the appeal.

Sec. 18-975. Suspension or revocation of annual permit; appeal.

- (a) A permit issued under this division may be revoked or suspended by the chief building official if:

- (1) After approval, an application is found to have contained false information; fail to update.
 - (2) Upon an inspection under this division, the short-term rental is found to have conditions that present a danger to life, health, or safety and the dangerous conditions are not timely corrected;
 - (3) Upon an inspection under this division, the short-term rental is found to not be in compliance with minimum standards imposed by this division or by city health or safety codes and the violations are not timely corrected;
 - (4) An owner or operator has prevented, refused, or impaired any inspection of the short-term rental;
 - (5) An owner or operator has actively concealed any condition that presents a threat to life, health, or safety or any condition that is a violation of any provision of this division or any city health and safety code;
 - (6) A notice of violation or order to correct, issued by the chief building official or designee, has not been complied with, and at least seven days have elapsed since the order to correct was issued;
 - (7) The short-term rental is deemed a dangerous building by the city pursuant to Chapter 98 of this code; or
 - (8) If it is determined that three (3) or more separate incidents of violation of this division have occurred related to the short-term rental within a twelve (12) month period; or
 - (9) If it is determined that five (5) or more separate incidents of violation of federal law, state law, or any city code have occurred related to the short-term rental within a twenty-four (24) month period.
- (b) The chief building official shall give written notice to permit holder that the permit is suspended or revoked. A notice of suspension or revocation shall identify the permit, state with specificity the reason for the suspension or revocation, and advise of the right to appeal the suspension or revocation by quoting subsection (d). The notice shall be delivered to the permit holder by personal delivery or by sending the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address provided for the operator as part of the permit application. The notice shall be deemed delivered upon personal delivery or three (3) days after being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service sent certified mail, return receipt requested, at the address for the permit holder on the permit application.
- (c) A suspension or revocation of a permit is effective immediately upon delivery of the notice pursuant to subsection (b).
- (d) A permit holder may appeal the suspension or revocation of a permit to the Board. Notice of appeal must be submitted within twenty (20)

calendar days from receipt of the notice of the suspension or revocation. The notice of appeal must be submitted in writing to the Chief Building Official and the notice of appeal must identify the permit, identify the property that is subject to the permit, state that the suspension or revocation of the permit is being appealed to the Board, and state the grounds for the appeal.

- (e) The chief building official's suspension or revocation of a permit shall be stayed during the pendency of an appeal to the Board.

Sec. 18-976. Discontinuance of Operations

- (a) The owner or operator of a short-term rental who is unable, fails, or refuses to obtain a permit for operation as a short-term rental following the effective date of this division, shall discontinue the short-term rental use on or before January 31, 2025 or thirty (30) days from the notice of permit denial, whichever is later.
- (b) All short-term rental uses located in zoning districts where short-term rentals uses are not permitted by right and issued a permit under this division shall discontinue the short-term rental use immediately upon the revocation of the short-term rental permit, denial of the renewal of the short-term rental permit, or failure to renew a short-term rental permit within the timeline prescribed in section 18-961. A short-term rental use that is discontinued under this subsection shall not be resumed.
- (c) All short-term rental uses located in zoning districts where short-term rental uses are not permitted by right shall be subject to the abandonment provisions contained in section 118-153(i) of the city zoning ordinance. A short-term rental use abandoned under this subsection shall immediately discontinue the short-term rental use upon the effective date of the abandonment. A short-term rental use that is abandoned under this subsection shall not be resumed.
- (d) It shall be a defense to any permit denial based on the abandonment of a nonconforming use that the short-term rental use was suspended, for a period of one hundred eighty (180) or more days, for repair or renovation, and the property owner:
 - (1) notified the city of such suspension of use before the expiration of the abandonment period described by subsection (c);
 - (2) files a zero-dollar hotel occupancy tax report on a quarterly basis as required by chapter 74, article IV of the code; and
 - (3) renews the short-term rental permit in accordance with section 18-961 of the code.

Sec. 18-977. Continuance of Operations

- (a) For properties located in zoning districts where short-term rental uses are not permitted by right, the owner or operator of a property used as a short-term rental prior to October 13, 2025, that comes into compliance with the requirements of this division, including obtaining a permit and paying all hotel occupancy taxes owed for the property or otherwise entering into a payment arrangement for said taxes with City, on or before January 31, 2025, may continue to operate so long as the owner or operator maintains compliance with all the requirements of this division.
- (b) For properties located in zoning districts where short-term rental uses are not permitted by right, a short-term rental permit for a property operating pursuant to authority in subsection (a) may be transferred subject to the following regulations:
 - 1. A permit transfer shall be required upon transfer of more than fifty percent (50%) of the ownership interest in any short-term rental, including any such transfer of interest in a legal entity owning a short-term rental.
 - 2. The new owner must submit a new permit application in accordance with section 18-961 within 90 days, beginning on the date of closing on the property or, in the absence of a closing date, other effective date of the transfer of interest.
 - 3. In the event the new owner fails to submit a short-term rental permit application within the time period identified in subsection (a), the short-term rental use must be discontinued immediately, and the short-term rental permit shall not be transferred or issued.

Secs. 18-978—18-995. Reserved.”

SECTION 3: Article XII, “Rental Housing,” in Chapter 18, “Businesses,” in the Code of Ordinances, City of North Richland Hills, Texas, is amended to add a new Division 6, “Enforcement; Remedies,” to read as follows:

“DIVISION 4. RESERVED

DIVISION 5. RESERVED

DIVISION 6. ENFORCEMENT; REMEDIES

Sec. 18-996. Order to correct.

Upon inspection of rental property or any rental unit, the Chief Building Official or designee may issue a notice of violation or order to correct any violations found during an inspection, requiring the owner, landlord, or operator to correct any violation of any provision of this article or of any city health and safety code. The chief building official or designee may establish a time within which a specified violation must be corrected, and repairs be made. An order to correct may be revised, amended, or

extended by the chief building official as may be appropriate under the circumstances.

Sec. 18-997. Appeal of administrative action.

- (a) An owner or operator may appeal to the Board alleging error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by the chief building official or an administrative official in the enforcement of this article. Notice of appeal must be submitted to the Board within twenty (20) calendar days from service of the order, requirement, decision, or determination. The notice of appeal must be submitted in writing to the Chief Building Official and the notice of appeal must identify the application or permit at issue, identify the property that is subject of the application or permit at issue, state that the action is being appealed to the Board of Adjustment, describe the action being appealed, and state the alleged error in the action.
- (b) An order, requirement, decision, or determination of the chief building official or an administrative official in the enforcement of this article is deemed to be received on the date that it is personally delivered to the owner or operator or three (3) days after it is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, sent certified mail, return receipt requested and addressed to the address on the application or permit.

Sec. 18-998. Appeal hearing.

- (a) The Board may hear and decide an appeal that alleges error in an order, requirement, decision, or determination made by the chief building official or an administrative official in the enforcement of this article or an appeal from the denial of a permit application or suspension or revocation of a permit under this article.
- (b) The Board shall schedule a hearing as soon as practicable upon the timely filing of an appeal, but the hearing shall be scheduled no sooner than ten (10) days and no more than thirty (30) days after the appeal is filed. Notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing shall be delivered to the appellant, the owner or operator, and the chief building official by personal delivery or by depositing the notice with the U.S. Postal Service, sent certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the address on the notice of appeal, the permit application, or the permit, as applicable. The notice of the hearing shall be deemed to be delivered upon personal delivery or three (3) days after being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in accordance with this subsection.
- (c) The owner, property manager, operator, chief building official, and any other interested persons may attend and present evidence at the hearing. Any party may be represented by an agent or attorney in the hearing.

- (d) An appeal before the Board must be heard by at least 75 percent of the members. A simple majority vote of members present shall be enough to take action, but a concurring vote of 75 percent of the members of the Board is necessary to reverse an order, requirement, decision, or determination of an administrative official. The Board shall promptly render a decision based on the merits of the appeal and the evidence presented at the hearing, and the decision of the Board shall be filed in the office of the Board. The Board's decision shall be final and binding.
- (e) An appellant who seeks judicial review of the Board's determination on appeal must do so in accordance with the Section 118-97 of this code. All of the provisions of Chapter 118 of this code shall apply to an appeal of a Board determination made under this article.

Sec. 18-999. Enforcement; remedies; penalties.

- (a) This article may be enforced, and the requirements of this article must be met, by owners of rental properties, short-term rentals, and hotels and motels, as well as any person occupying, in control of, or responsible for management of the property, including but not limited to landlords, operators, managing agents, property managers, and occupants. Enforcement against one shall not preclude enforcement of the same violation against another.
- (b) The remedies provided for in this article are nonexclusive. The city may, at its option, pursue the remedies provided for in this article as well as any and all other remedies available to the city at law or in equity.
- (c) Any person, firm, or association violating any provision of this article relating to the registration and permitting of rental properties, short-term rentals, and hotels and motels shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500.00. All other violations of any provision of this article, including the continued operation of a rental property, short-term rental, or a hotel or motel following revocation of a permit, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$2,000.00.
- (d) It is the intent of the city in adopting this article that the provisions of this article govern fire safety and public health and sanitation.
- (e) Violations of the provisions of this article are deemed strict liability offenses. No intent need be pleaded or proven in the prosecution of any offense or violation of any provision of this article.
- (f) Each day in which a violation of any provision of this article occurs or continues to exist shall be deemed to be a separate offense.”

SECTION 4: This Ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances and of the Code of Ordinances, City of North Richland Hills, Texas, as amended, except when the provisions of this Ordinance are in direct conflict with the

provisions of such ordinances and such code, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances and such code are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5: It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance are severable, and if any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase.

SECTION 6: Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provision of the Code of Ordinances, City of North Richland Hills, Texas, as amended hereby shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon final conviction thereof fined in an amount not to exceed Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day any such violation shall be allowed to continue shall constitute a separate violation and punishable hereunder.

SECTION 7: All rights and remedies of the City of North Richland Hills are expressly saved as to any and all violations of the provisions of any ordinances governing short-term rentals or other single family rentals that have accrued at the time of the effective date of this Ordinance; and, as to such accrued violations and all pending litigation, both civil and criminal, whether pending in court or not, under such ordinances, same shall not be affected by this Ordinance but may be prosecuted until final disposition by the courts.

SECTION 8: The City Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to cause the publication of the descriptive caption and penalty clause of this Ordinance as required by law, if applicable.

SECTION 9: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon publication as required by law.

AND IT IS SO ORDAINED.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 13th day of October, 2025.

CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS

By: _____
Jack McCarty, Mayor

ATTEST:

Alicia Richardson
City Secretary/Chief Governance Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Bradley A. Anderle, City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Cori Reaume, Director of Planning