



# SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

STATEMENT:

November 1, 2018

TO: Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Members  
San Antonio City Council  
RE: Item No. 4: Short-Term Rental Ordinance

The San Antonio Conservation Society has worked over the last year with neighborhood residents to make sure that the Short-Term Rentals ordinance supports healthy communities. Our historic districts were created by building owners who invested their time and money in restoring and preserving buildings that benefit the entire city. Their ongoing stewardship is essential to the future preservation of our historic districts.

While we urged that only Type 1 Owner-occupied short-term rentals should be allowed in the city's historic districts, we do not oppose the language that limits Type 2 STRs to 12.5% of the blockface in all residential districts. Resident owners are the best stewards of properties. Absentee owners are unable to participate in community stewardship to a meaningful extent.

The Society is pleased to see that the incredible amount of work that went into the 1999 Bed-and-Breakfast Ordinance is recognized and reflected in the Short-Term Rental Ordinance. We support the language added in B Session regarding events and food and beverage service. The point of this law is to allow reasonable additional income from properties, not to create competition with hotels.

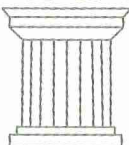
The Society again urges the City Council to require an initial safety inspection by the city rather than allowing self-certification and inspection by complaint. While the ordinance is not ideal, it takes steps toward insuring that the incredible investment of neighborhood time and treasure into San Antonio's historic districts will be conserved. Stewardship requires permanent residents with eyes on the street and feet on the ground.

Respectfully Submitted,

SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Susan Beavin, President

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The Purpose of this Society is to preserve and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs, relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty, and all that is admirably distinctive to our State; and by such physical and cultural preservation to keep the history of Texas legible and intact to educate the public, especially the youth of today and tomorrow, with knowledge of our inherited regional values.

