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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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Subject: STR questions

Greetings Mayor and Council

Staff received the following questions and provide the following answers in responses:

Q: What is the largest individual penalty for non-compliance?

A: *For any individual not in compliance with STR by-laws a \$1,000 ticket is issued per offence. To date, the largest penalty for a single non-compliant STR operator is a \$20,000 fine that was issued in provincial court.*

Q: How was the 73% compliance rate calculated? Is there any concern that some STRs are not reflected here, such as Craigslist ads?

A: *To compute the license compliance rate, staff divided the number of STR business licences issued by the number of active STR units identified. The 73% compliance rate referenced in the report is the compliance rate recorded in September 2019. Using the compliance rate from September gives a more accurate portrayal of the overall compliance rate in 2019 as the STR market in Vancouver is seasonal with the number of STR units and listings peaking throughout the summer months before declining at the start of Fall.*

In regards to advertising STR's on Craigslist, staff confirm that the screen scrape vendor does not scrape Craigslist or like platforms given technical challenges. However, based on our research, there is a small amount of STRs marketed on this type of platform, as almost all STR listings are known to be marketed on major and recognized STR platforms, namely Airbnb, Homeaway, VRBO, Booking and Flipkey.

Best

Sadhu

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.