



**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR**

To: Members of the County Council
From: Susan L. Smith, County Auditor
Date: January 12, 2021
Subject: Legislation to be heard on January 19, 2021: Bill No. 109-20; and Resolutions Nos. 1-21, 2-21, and 3-21.

Bill No. 109-20: Emergency Ordinance – Licenses and Registration – Fees for the Registration or Renewal of Short-term Residential Rentals

This bill reduces the fee to register or renew a short-term residential rental for a two-year term from \$400 to \$100 until all State and County proclamations of an emergency are terminated, repealed, or otherwise revoked. This bill also requires the County to refund \$300 to those hosts who paid the \$400 registration fee on or after April 9, 2020.

Bill No. 89-19, effective April 9, 2020, established registration requirements for the owners of short-term residential rentals and imposed a registration fee of \$400 every two years. At that time, Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County had hired a market and economic research firm with expertise in the travel and tourism sector to prepare an analysis of the short-term vacation rental market in Anne Arundel County. According to the consultant report, in calendar year 2018, there were 295 short-term residential rentals in Anne Arundel County that were located outside of the City of Annapolis.

According to the Department of Inspections and Permits (I&P), there have been 79 short-term residential rentals that registered on or after April 9, 2020 for a registration fee revenue of \$31,600. Refunds to these registered hosts would total \$23,700. Future revenue reductions resulting from charging \$100 instead of \$400 would depend on the number of additional registrations, the extent that lowering the registration fee would result in more hosts deciding to register, and the date the State and County proclamations of an emergency are terminated, repealed, or otherwise revoked.

I&P stated that its Licensing Division currently has two full-time vacant positions; therefore, the refund process would be handled by an employee in I&P's Administration and Support Division.

Resolution No. 1-21: Continued Service of Acting Personnel Officer

This resolution approves the continued service of Anne Budowski as Acting Personnel Officer from January 22, 2021 through July 22, 2021. This resolution has no fiscal impact to the County.

Resolution No. 2-21: Appointment of Members to the Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission

This resolution approves the appointment of Robert J. Mansfield to the Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission for a four-year term expiring on April 30, 2024. This resolution has no fiscal impact.

Resolution No. 3-21: Appointment of Members to the Severn River Commission

This resolution approves the appointment of Matthew Liptak, a resident of the Severn River Watershed, to the Severn River Commission for a three-year term. Resolution No. 47-89 provides that at least five of the seven voting members of the Severn River Commission must be residents of the Severn River Watershed. This resolution has no fiscal impact.



Susan L. Smith, CPA, CFE
County Auditor