

# FORT WORTH



## Short Term Rental Alliance

### **FORT WORTH PROPERTY OWNERS CHALLENGE CITY IN FIGHT FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS**

*The Fort Worth Short Term Rental Alliance Organizes Legal Fund to Assist Property Owners with Legal Fees*

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**Fort Worth, TX** - On Thursday, the Fort Worth Short Term Rental Alliance (FWSTRA) announced more than one-hundred homeowners are challenging short-term rental regulations in Fort Worth. A lawsuit filed by Bourland, Wall & Wenzel Law Firm and J. Patrick Sutton Law representing 113 plaintiffs is suing the City of Fort Worth challenging the unconstitutional mishandling of short-term rental property and the violation of economic liberty and property rights.

Property rights are fundamental, protected by the Texas Constitution and the path city council members and staff has chosen is not only an overreach, but it's unconstitutional. "The Constitution defends property owners against irrational government. Property rights are being undermined and will not go unchecked by concerned citizens," says FWSTRA president, Adrienne Bennett, who is also a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

In February, it became clear that the City of Fort Worth was going to begin targeting property owners who provide their home to guests for stays shorter than 30 days. According to the city warning notices, fines of up to \$2000.00 per day could be levied on alleged uncompliant property owners. In response, and prompted by concerned citizens and property owners, the FWSTRA created and raised an impressive legal fund that is now aiding legal action. Tens of thousands in donations have been received with the fund continuing to receive donations that will assist plaintiffs with legal fees.

Despite the fear of retaliation from the City of Fort Worth, specifically, code compliance officers, the lawsuit filed contains both individual citizens and limited liability companies. And while there are more than 110 plaintiffs, some supportive citizens declined to take part due to the fear of harassment by city officials. Lauren Brady, founder of Fighting for our STR Property Rights, understands why someone would be supportive of defending property rights, but be unwilling to sue the city. “The city has decided to target me because of my STR advocacy. Unfortunately, and disturbingly, code compliance officers using monitored surveillance have wrongfully accused me of being uncompliant when evidence proves otherwise,” Brady says. “People are scared and rightfully so. If this can happen to someone like me, it can happen to anyone.” Brady is one of the original founders of the Fort Worth Short Term Rental Alliance and former president. She is also a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

During the past year, the city of Fort Worth has spent tens of thousands of dollars of taxpayers’ money on a third party, Deckard Technologies, to surveil citizens. As the FWSTRA understands it, this surveillance of homeowners consists of tracking citizens and their use of rental resource platforms, such as VRBO and Airbnb. A current city ordinance bans citizens from having a listing advertised for any amount of time less than 30 days, which city officials have said justifies the monitored surveillance.

The FWSTRA is a non-profit community organization of ambassadors supporting the city, short term rental hosts, and guests, by providing education, advocacy, and community outreach. If you are interested in donating to the legal fund visit [www.fortworthstra.org](http://www.fortworthstra.org) to support property rights in Fort Worth. For more information email [info@fortworthstra.org](mailto:info@fortworthstra.org).

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