

## **VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE**

**WHEREAS THE MEMBERSHIP** of the Sandbridge Beach Civic League (“SBCL”) no longer has confidence in the representation and actions of Councilwoman Barbara Henley (“Henley”) of the City Council of Virginia Beach, VA. (“City Council”) in fairly representing the concerns of the majority of the SBCL members; and

**WHEREAS THE MEMBERSHIP** has lost trust and confidence in the leadership of Henley in protecting the interests and economic vitality of the Sandbridge Community. Henley has attempted to use her influence with City Council, to over regulate Short Term Rentals (“STR’s”) against the desires of both the SBCL and the Sandbridge Beach Business Association (“SBBA”). It has been demonstrated that rules and regulations proposed by Henley would have a dire and adverse impact to the Sandbridge economy affecting jobs and real estate value; we

**HEREBY RENDER** a Vote of No Confidence in Henley's ability to fairly represent the membership of the Sandbridge Beach Civic League.

### **SUPPORTING FACTS**

1. The Sandbridge Community encompasses 1,425 homes and 246 condominiums. Over 780 of these dwelling units are currently STR’s. This represents 55% of the total STR’s in the City of Virginia Beach. Rentals in Sandbridge have occurred over 50 years without any major issues. The Sandbridge Beach Civic League is comprised of 2,300 voting members.
2. A small minority group of disgruntled Sandbridge residents (“Disgruntled 18”) began a campaign over 3 years ago voicing the desire to regulate “Event Homes” and STR’s.
3. The Disgruntled 18 began meeting at various residences with Henley to discuss proposed regulations of both “Event Homes” and STR’s.
4. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, a FOIA request was sent to the City of Virginia Beach requesting information about any activity involving STR’s and Henley. The City responded with information that Henley along with several members of the Disgruntled 18 had arranged a meeting with City Officials including the Mayor, to present a 5 page list of proposed regulations for STR’s. This information was not presented to the SBCL until it was announced at a Civic League by a member through the FOIA request.

5. Henley was then instrumental in requesting a hearing through the Beach and Waterways Commission (“BWC”) to advance recommendations for regulations of “Event Homes”. Public meetings were held and the BWC recommended rules and regulations supported by both the SBCL and SBBA creating workable guidelines. Henley then advocated Council not to support the BWC recommendation but instead form another Committee with expanded roles.
6. Henley was then instrumental in the formation of this new Ad Hoc Committee (AHC”) to study Event Homes, STR’s which would now would include Air B&B’s. Henley did not inform the SBCL of this new Committee nor solicited members to represent the economic interests of the Sandbridge community. Henley however did appoint several members of the Disgruntled 18 to the AHC which in turn recommended a variety of restrictive rules and regulations.
7. In November of 2016, a large group of SBCL members along with members of the SBBA appeared before City Council and presented 526 signed petitions opposing regulation of STR’s. 80+ speakers made clear the potential devastating impact such regulations could have for the Sandbridge Community.
8. City Council directed the matter to the City of Virginia Beach Planning Commission (“Planning Commission”) for additional public input and a recommendation. Multiple meetings were held and a recommendation from the Planning Commission was presented to City Council for action.
9. This recommendation to the City Council was discussed at their February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting. During this meeting, Henley requested that City Council include additional regulations including a “Conditional Use Permit” requirement and other regulations beyond the Planning Commission’s recommendations.
10. Henley when questioned at a subsequent Civic League meeting no longer hid her intentions and stated that these regulations were going to be imposed on Sandbridge. When concerns was raised on the economic impact this would have on people’s lives, Henley responded “The City didn’t ask you to rent your property”. She stated that property owners had been operating illegally for the past 65 years and that was going to stop.
11. Frustrated with the continued lack of support by Henley and the City Council, SBCL along with the SBBA reached out to State Representatives for relief. During the 2017-2018 legislative session, State House Bill # 824 was passed as follows;

“...This bill mandates that any short-term rental located in the Sandbridge Special Service District in the City of Virginia Beach shall be a principal use subject to the City's regulations applicable to short-term rentals. Whether a short-term rental located in any other area of the City of Virginia Beach is a permitted use is determined by the provisions of the City's zoning ordinance.”

12. In light of this State Legislation, Henley continues to push for more restrictive STR rules and regulations which could have a significant adverse economic impact upon the entire Sandbridge Community.

This vote was taken in accordance with the established rules and procedures of the Sandbridge Beach Civic League during the September 18th, 2018 General Business Meeting.

**Motion Passed By Majority**

Duly noted

Jane Stilley

Secretary of the Sandbridge Beach Civic League