

Jamie Wolters

From: Brian E [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 24, 2025 11:14 AM
To: Jamie Wolters; Grayson Moore
Subject: Request for Review of Short-Term Rental Certificate Renewal Policy

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Can you please include this correspondence in the next city council meeting packet?

Dear Mr. Moore and City Council Members,

I hope you are doing well. I am writing regarding the renewal of my Short-Term Rental Certificate and a concern I encountered during this year's renewal process that I believe warrants clarification and potential review.

My prior certificate (CSTR-210101) was set to expire in June 2025. To remain fully compliant and avoid any lapse, I submitted my renewal early, in April 2025. However, when my new certificate (CSTR License-250082) was issued, it was set to run from April 2025 through April 2026, rather than beginning at the original expiration date in June. As a result, I effectively lost two months of the certificate period that had already been paid for.

Because the City encourages proactive renewal—particularly ahead of required fire inspections—this structure unintentionally penalizes those who follow the rules. Under the new annual recertification system, homeowners who renew early receive less than 12 months of coverage, despite acting in full compliance with City guidance.

This has an additional impact in Saugatuck, where the short-term rental season effectively runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Conducting fire inspections and renewal-related activities during the peak season can be disruptive for both homeowners and the visitors who support our local economy. Encouraging early renewal is beneficial to the City, homeowners, inspectors, and guests alike—but the current system discourages this by reducing certificate time for those who comply early.

I would like to respectfully ask:

Is the shortening of renewal periods an intentional outcome of the current policy, or is it an unintended consequence of the administrative process?

I also kindly request that this matter be considered in an upcoming City Council workshop. Allowing renewed certificates to begin at the original expiration date—regardless of early submission—would create a more equitable system, promote compliance, and minimize unnecessary disruptions during Saugatuck’s busiest tourism months.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate the City’s efforts to maintain safe, responsible short-term rentals, and I would be happy to provide any additional context or participate in further discussion if helpful.

Warm regards,
Brian Elmore

[REDACTED]
Saugatuck, MI
[REDACTED]