

Virgil Amick

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 4:24 PM
To: Planning
Subject: City of Cle Elum Planning Dept.: Comment re STR-2025-002



[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. We are writing with concerns regarding the application for 408 W 6th to become a short-term rental.

This house is right next to the convergence of 5th and 6th Streets coming from the east side of the Hill (known as Hillcrest.) These two streets narrow into one in front of this residence, **with no shoulder on either side**. Our concern is that a vacation rental of this size with a capacity of 10 will attract renters with multiple cars that may partially block this road, impeding traffic between Hillcrest and #7 Hill. (The east and west sides of the hill.) There are only two ways to get off of the hill, via Stafford and via Oakes. It is vitally important that residents have access to both at all times, particularly in case of wildfire or other emergency.

It is also vital that fire and other emergency vehicles be able to freely use this stretch of road. Snowplows as well. Anything less endangers the people and property of those who live on the hill.

We recognize that petitioners have stated that there are four off street parking places for this residence. However, if you look at the actual space available, it seems that it would be difficult to fit large SUVs and/or large pickups into these four designated spaces, and these are the type of vehicles that are often used to tow trailers for snowmobiles, four-wheelers motorbikes or other recreational vehicles. And, of course, there must be space to park the trailers other than in the road. Our concern is that cars and trailers will partially block this vital stretch of road. And where will the recreational vehicles be parked?

We live on the Hillcrest side of the hill and use this road on a regular basis. We have already been impeded from using this stretch of road at times and have driven around cars and trucks parked in the street. Sixth Street, coming down from the old water reservoir, has also been obstructed by parked cars. We would encourage those who will be voting on this petition to drive up and take a look for yourselves before you vote. Our city streets are lined with cars, and it is not realistic to think this stretch of road will be immune. Other streets may have substantial shoulders but that is not the case here.

In the larger context, it is sad that if this is approved, housing that has ostensibly been approved to help with the housing shortage in the Upper County will not be doing so. What percentage of newly sold homes in this area have already petitioned to become vacation rentals? Will there be any limit to the percentage that can be used for this purpose? Should there be restrictions on the number of these allowed in a given area? These questions should be considered before precedents are set that cannot be undone.

Ultimately, it is the duty of our city government not only to consider the desires of new property owners but also to protect the health and safety of those who already live here. We hope you will give their comments the weight they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe and Kathy Stancik