

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: A well-run rooming house (hostel) is a benefit to the community. They can provide affordable housing for college students, new graduates looking to start their career, retirees, and anyone seeking safe, cheap housing. A well-run rooming house can prevent people from slipping into homelessness. A poorly run one can make a neighborhood unlivable. As a resident of the Sugar Hill community of Council District 10, I can confirm that the District has many poorly run rooming houses that are bringing filth, destruction and sleepless nights to our community. This hurts both the community and the residents of the rooming house. Regrettably if these homes are put out of business, many of the residents will wind up living in their cars, renting a van/ RV from one of the many “van-lords” in the community or sleeping on the sidewalk. But let’s imagine if these rooming houses were regulated and run well. These homes could offer affordable places to live, keep homes from being demolished to build multifamily housing and bring income I urge the Planning Committee and the Council to amend 23-1195 to crack down on poorly run hostels, toss out the ban on hostels by-right, and allow well run hostels to stay open.