



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 2020
FROM: Drew Nelson, City Administrator
TO: Mayor PT Wood & City Council
SUBJECT: Financial Relief for Short Term Rentals Housing Critical Workers

Background

Mayor Wood received communication from Eric Rist with regard to financial relief for short term rentals who are providing housing for critical workers, particularly in healthcare and long-term care facilities. The general request was to provide some sort of financial relief to STRs used by critical workers in the form of waiving water and sewer monthly service fees. Staff reached out to Chaffee County Public Health and the Chaffee Housing Office to see if we could gauge demand. The email string of these conversations can be found attached.

Analysis

According to Mr. Rist, there are approximately 4 STRs that are being used by healthcare professionals that he has been in contact with. As noted in the message from CCPH, it is plausible that we may see a surge in need for healthcare professionals should there be a more significant outbreak of COVID-19 at our hospitals. For the time being, it appears that all healthcare professionals that need housing are able to find it.

Should the Council see fit, staff could implement any number of service fee or permit fee refunds to STRs for linking with critical workers; however, it would be recommended to not be limited just to healthcare. There are dozens of different job types that are considered “critical” or “essential” in Colorado, and CCPH has issued a number of waivers to the stay at home order that is currently in place. This extends from construction workers to grocery store employees, and all sorts of jobs in between.

It should be noted that many of these same employees are currently staying in long-term housing, and it may be more difficult to provide additional relief to landlords for every worker in Salida (not to mention those same workers who may own their home). There are definitely some equity issues that would exist in terms of where such a program would begin or end.

Recommendation

Staff does not have a recommendation at this time, and would request discussion and feedback from the City Council on this matter.

From: [Andrea Carlstrom](#)
To: "Drew Nelson"; bgray@chaffeecounty.org
Subject: RE: [FWD: Emergency Housing Update]
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:30:15 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

While I haven't heard of an overwhelming need to house health care workers at this time, there have been several who reached out at the beginning of the order to make sure that the short-term lodging that they have been staying at can remain. We have been granting that permission, along with a few who have come to town in the midst of the order needing a place to stay, and between hotels and rentals, there have been no issues.

Of course, if our hospital experiences a surge and needs to employ health care workers from outside the county, the need for them to find a place to stay will increase. There are several hotels who have said that are ready and able to lodge these workers. Baymont, Loyal Duke, Gateway just to name a few.

If the City would like to come up with a more formal way to manage the matching of health care workers with STR, then let's talk.

To my knowledge, everyone who has been needing emergency lodging has received it.

Thank you for the continued support as we take this pandemic one day at a time.

Andrea

*Andrea Carlstrom, MBA
Director, Chaffee County Public and Environmental Health
acarlstrom@chaffeecounty.org
719-530-2564 (office phone)
719-539-4510 (main phone)
719-207-1399 (cell phone)*





From: Drew Nelson <Drew.nelson@cityofsalida.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 6:43 PM
To: Andrea Carlstrom <acarlstrom@chaffeecounty.org>; bgray@chaffeecounty.org
Subject: FW: [FWD: Emergency Housing Update]

Andrea/Becky – Do you have any thoughts on programs to help health care workers by matching them up with STR owners? Do you have any information from the hospital or other providers about what the need for this might be?

Thanks,

Drew.

From: pt.wood@salidaelected.com [mailto:pt.wood@salidaelected.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:49 PM
To: 'Erik Rist' <erik@roguelemming.com>
Cc: 'Drew Nelson' <Drew.nelson@cityofsalida.com>; 'Erin Kelley' <erin.kelley@cityofsalida.com>
Subject: RE: [FWD: Emergency Housing Update]

Good we should have an actionable resolution at our next meeting. We may need more info on total properties etc.

P.T. Wood Mayor, Salida,CO

Phone: [719 530 2624](tel:7195302624)
Email: pt.wood@salidaelected.com
Website: www.cityofsalida.com

From: Erik Rist <erik@roguelemming.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:34 PM
To: pt.wood@salidaelected.com
Subject: RE: [FWD: Emergency Housing Update]

Hi PT,

How'd the it go at the meeting?

Thanks,
Erik

| ----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: [FWD: Emergency Housing Update]
From: <pt.wood@salidaelected.com>
Date: Tue, April 07, 2020 4:53 pm
To: "'Erik Rist'" <erik@roguelemming.com>

I will bring that up at tonight's meeting

P.T. Wood Mayor, Salida,CO

Phone: [719 530 2624](tel:7195302624)
Email: pt.wood@salidaelected.com
Website: www.cityofsalida.com

From: Erik Rist <erik@roguelemming.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4:48 PM
To: pt.wood@salidaelected.com
Subject: RE: [FWD: Emergency Housing Update]

Hi PT,

I know you're crazy busy but just checking in to see if you were able to present the idea of helping out the property owners who donate their properties to front line hospital/care workers?

Thanks,
Erik

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: [FWD: Emergency Housing Update]
From: <pt.wood@salidaelected.com>
Date: Thu, March 26, 2020 3:21 pm
To: "'Erik Rist'" <erik@roguelemming.com>

Thanks Erik great idea!

P.T. Wood Mayor, Salida,CO

Phone: [719 530 2624](tel:7195302624)
Email: pt.wood@salidaelected.com
Website: www.cityofsalida.com

From: Erik Rist <erik@roguelemming.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:17 PM
To: pt.wood@salidaelected.com
Subject: [FWD: Emergency Housing Update]

Hi PT,

Thank you for your willingness to support these efforts! Here is the update I shared with the property owners yesterday:

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Emergency Housing Update
From: "Erik Rist" <erik@roguelemming.com>
Date: Wed, March 25, 2020 10:13 am
To:

Hello,

I just want to say thank you again for reaching out to me and considering to offer your property to medical staff in need of extra housing!

The good news is that more than 20 people have reached and said they would be open to allowing medical staff to stay at their properties. Also, several hotels have said the same thing. At the moment I've only had 2 requests from medical staff so it doesn't look like I will be contacting anybody immediately but things are changing rapidly. I'm not sure how many medical staff will eventually reach out but for the people we can help, this is going to be very significant.

We had our first successful matching of medical staff and property owner on Monday. I would like to share it because I think it is a good model to start with and provides an idea of what to expect of this process if you do open your property to someone. I think the best way to think of my role in this process is a private citizen merely making an introduction.

I was approached by Brenda who is an RN at the Hospital. She lives with her family in Crestone. After working 3 x 12 hour shifts, she is unable to drive home and normally stays with an elderly woman in Salida. Because she was afraid to potentially expose this woman to the virus, she was preparing to stay in her camper in the hospital parking lot. It would have obviously been extremely difficult, especially without plumbing and electricity. Also, who knows how much her schedule may increase if/when things get worse.

Fortunately, it worked out that a property owner was about to leave to drive back to Wisconsin for health insurance reasons and was open to helping out. I first confirmed her employment with the hospital. Then without divulging identities, I generally described each party for the other to make sure it sounded like a good fit for both people.

After they both said it sounded good, I requested Brenda write a little about herself and what her needs were. I then shared her write up with the property owner. After reading it, he gave the thumbs up and I then shared the property owner's contact info with the staff member and let them take it from there. They were able to meet just before the property owner left town which was the same day Brenda was back in town.

After they linked up, it occurred to me that I should memorialize what had taken place and include some form of disclaimer. Brenda gave me permission to share my email and her response below:

Hi Erik,

Once again I cannot thank you enough. As surreal as the pandemic is, what occurred yesterday is nearly as unbelievable. I am over and over counting my blessings! I met with Al and Mary yesterday afternoon and this morning they left for Wisconsin. Their willingness to step up and trust in a total stranger is nothing short of astounding. And as Al said yesterday if we cannot be humane to one another right now we are all seriously lost. I cannot agree more.

I completely understand the nature of your email and of course have taken this arrangement with the Jones' upon myself and myself only, as have they. They are relieved to have a presence in their home while they are away riding this out in Wisconsin. I will keep you informed how this is working out for us as it is, as this entire situation is, a work in progress.

Thanks again and stay safe,
Brenda

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 22, 2020, at 3:10 PM, Erik Rist
<erik@roguelemming.com> wrote:

Hi Al and Brenda,

It was great talking with both of you and I hope you two work something out! I just wanted to recap everything via email since this is the first time I've done this and don't have any protocol for this yet.

Although I am coordinating with the Salida Hospital, I am in fact a private citizen and not an employee of the Hospital. As a private citizen, I put out a call to the public to donate temporary housing for front line employees at the Salida Hospital who have great need. Al you were generous enough to contact me about the possibility of someone using your Salida property and I subsequently gave Brenda your contact information. Whatever arrangement you two make will be between yourselves. The Salida Hospital, along with myself, do not make any representations regarding responsibility or liability.

As a community member, I just want to say thank you Al! After talking with Brenda, I know that if you guys move forward it will significantly help her situation out as she deals first hand with this crisis.

Good luck to you both,
Erik

So this would be the general process. I am going to try hard to make sure everyone is fully comfortable with the arrangement before putting people in contact with each other. I plan to share more updates and some

practical information in the days to come. Thank you again for being open to helping!

Stay safe,
Erik

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