

City of Two Rivers

RESOLUTION

**IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE GREATER REPORTING DETAIL
FROM ON-LINE BOOKING PLATFORMS
FOR ROOM TAXES COLLECTED ON BEHALF OF WISCONSIN MUNICIPALITIES**

WHEREAS, booking platforms of the on-line marketplace are the preferred method for reserving hotels, vacation rentals and other lodging for a majority of American travelers; and

WHEREAS, payments are usually made through the on-line platforms for bookings of short-term vacation rentals, a strong growth sector in travel lodging in recent years; and

WHEREAS, this trend is evident here in Two Rivers, where 2024 the room taxes collected and remitted to the City from the on-line marketplace accounted for more than one-third of total room tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, while State law requires on-line booking platforms to collect such room taxes for bookings in municipalities that levy a room tax, and to remit such taxes to the City on a quarterly basis, the platforms are not required to identify the properties from which the room taxes are generated, nor the amount of room tax attributable to each such property; and

WHEREAS, having such information would be beneficial to municipalities and to the local tourism promotion and tourism development activities funded through room taxes, by:

- Aiding the City in assuring that all vacation rentals are properly licensed and otherwise operating in compliance with state and local regulations;
- Helping assure that room tax revenues are being accurately reported and accounted for, avoiding both under-collection and the possibility of duplicate payments made in error by both the rental property and the booking platform;
- Making it easier to analyze and evaluate trends in local lodging; and

WHEREAS, such information should be readily available to and reportable by these platforms, but legislative action is required to change the current reporting requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby urge the Wisconsin Legislature to consider legislation amending State law pertaining to the collection and payment of room taxes by on-line marketplace platforms, to require additional details including the names and addresses of properties from which room taxes are collected and paid to the municipality, and the amount of room tax paid from each such property that is included in any quarterly payment to the municipality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Two Rivers seeks expressions of support for such legislation from the City’s Room Tax Commission, the Board of Directors of Explore Two Rivers, Inc., and other area room tax commissions and tourism entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to our area legislators, State Representative Paul Tittl and State Senator Devin Lemahieu, to Governor Tony Evers, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism and state tourism organizations, urging their support for such a common sense change in State law.

Adopted this 20th day of January, 2025.

Council Member

Gregory E. Buckley
City Manager