

# Ordinance and Petition – 10/16/20 Update

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On September 9, 2020 Cathedral City Council unanimously adopted Ordinance 842 putting in place new Municipal Code Section 5.96 regarding the operation of STVRs. City Council took this decisive action after considering for more than a year the input of residents, owners and managers via public forums, a survey, emails, phone calls and personal observation.

On September 9, 2020 the City Council also unanimously adopted 3 resolutions establishing:

- Higher permit fees (No. 2020-43)
- A Resident Complaint Protocol (No. 44)
- Higher fines for violations (No.45)

ILCC (I Love Cathedral City, a group created by out of town STVR owners and managers) through its funding arm called Share Cathedral City began circulating a referendum petition to protest and repeal the new STVR ordinance. Many of the signature gatherers were out of town professional signature gatherers paid \$15 per signature and who gave false and misleading information to entice residents to sign the petitions.

The petitions with over 4,000 signatures were turned in to the city clerk on Tuesday, October 13 2020, and will be forwarded to the County Registrar of Voters for validation. We expect that a sufficient number of signatures will be validated. While technically the new ordinance went into effect on October 9, the submission of the referendum petition to the city clerk suspended the new ordinance.

In anticipation of a referendum petition being submitted, at the October 14, 2020 City Council meeting, the City Council adopted a new urgency ordinance to keep in place the moratorium on issuing new STVR permits in residential neighborhoods (although permits for properties HOAs that allow STVRs, and those for homesharing are still permitted), and also passed 2 resolutions keeping in place the higher permit fees and penalties.

## So now what happens?

The county registrar of voters has 30 days to validate the signatures. If sufficient signatures are validated, then the city has a number of options. They include:

- Repealing the new STVR ordinance
- Negotiating with ILCC to amend the ordinance to meet their objections
- Putting it on the ballot in a general or special election.