



**FREDERICK
COUNTY
ASSOCIATION OF
REALTORS®**

Legislative Update

The United Voice for Real Estate in Frederick County

City of Frederick Rental Registration Ordinance

On Thursday, July 7 the City of Frederick Mayor and Board of Aldermen are scheduled to approve an ordinance for residential rental licensure. This ordinance will require a landlord to purchase a license in order to rent a housing unit in the City. This is an annual license and subjects the rental unit to random inspections by the Department of Public Works and fines a landlord who does not have a current license or does not timely abate a violation. This ordinance has been in the works for almost four years now and FCAR has been actively involved in the process. We shared a number of concerns at past public meetings including:

- Recommending exemptions from licensure for renting a unit to an immediate family member
- Consideration of a tiered system of licensing so those who have shown full compliance and lack of violations can have reduced renewal fees or longer inspection intervals
- A mechanism for a streamlined application and renewal process

Although City staff have recommended that the ordinance be approved, there are still a number of questions left unanswered. FCAR and partners will be in attendance at the hearing and will express some of the following concerns:

- When can we expect the Department of Public Works to publish the inspection standards?
- How long must a residential housing unit be rented in order to require a license?
- How long will a landlord have to correct a violation?
- How often will each individual unit be inspected? Every 4 years? Every 3 years? Indeterminate?

As always, FCAR will stay abreast of developments and new requirements of the ordinance as they surface.

The public meeting will be held at City Hall. If you would like to watch the hearing and cannot attend in person, it will be available for viewing on cable Channel 99 and [online](#).