



TLPA MEMBERS: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Lakefront Commercial Businesses in R1 Residential Zones on Torch Lake

We all need to be heard once again on the importance of enforcing township ordinances that protect our lake and lakeshore. The Board of TLPA urges you to write to your township officials requesting they enforce ordinances that prevent businesses from operating along the lakefront in R-1 residential districts. Your help is especially important right now in Clearwater and Milton Townships.

In Clearwater there is a pontoon rental business operating in an R-1 zone. The Zoning Board of Appeals voted 5-0 that pontoon rental businesses are not allowed under the existing ordinance in R-1 zones. Despite this, the township board has chosen to not enforce the ordinance.

In Milton Township there is an active lawsuit against the township that involves what appears to be a large-scale business involving multiple homes on and off the water all located in an R-1 zone. The township is correct to stand by its ordinances that are designed to prevent residential neighborhoods from being converted into commercial resort districts.

Unchecked, this commercialization will take over and forever alter not just neighborhoods, but the lakefront. Further, these ordinances are designed to prevent funneling, which also threatens our shoreline. Unenforced ordinances leads to ever greater funneling. Milton Township should stay the course and defend its ordinance.

TLPA is not against all short-term rentals nor business in general, even those operated on the lakefront -- in a district that is zoned for such businesses. Zoning ordinances are the community's primary means to preserve the tranquility and beauty of our shoreline and the neighborhoods along the shoreline. Our elected officials should enforce them.

Please write to your township officials, especially those in Milton and Clearwater, and

ask them to prevent the corrosive effects of actions that violate existing ordinances by enforcing them. This protects the rights of those that abide by and depend on those same ordinances. By doing so, they contribute to a virtuous cycle that protects Torch Lake. By doing otherwise, they create a vicious cycle that harms the lake for us now, and those that come after us.



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