REIASENSE

National REIA's Monthly Government Affairs Update...

"No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session." Mark Twain





WHAT WE'RE HEARING



Don't mask me, don't mask thee, mask that man behind the tree: With federal chatter about new Covid strains and potential for masking, lockdowns and remote everything kicking up, the 10th Amendment will truly come into play. The variation in state response, especially this time around, will be dramatic and vocal. To date only two (2!) people in the US have been diagnosed and some scientists are encouraging a bit of wait-and-see, as there is a 50% probability of the outbreak being serious or nothing. How do you make plans with that type of variation? Flip a coin...

Rent Control: A recent commentary published in the Hill by Sharon Wilson Géno (president of the National Multifamily Housing Council) says national rent control will make the housing crisis worse. She insightfully says, "...Rent control allows politicians to shirk their responsibility by shifting the cost of providing needed housing opportunities to apartment owners for immediate political gain. This hurts current renters and those that cannot even access the rental housing market." Click here to read it.



WHAT WE'RE TOUCHING



Seller-Finance Update: In conjunction with the <u>Seller Finance Coalition</u>, <u>HR 3464</u> (the Affordable Homeownership Access Act) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on Financial Services. There is an additional effort to garner a sponsor or two in the U.S. Senate – calling on all Ohio and Alabama Investors to reach out to your Senator – they are key to moving this bill in both the House AND the Senate. Please go to the Advocacy section of National REIA' website for an easy way to outreach through our VoterVoice program! <u>Click here to take action!</u>



WHAT WE'RE SEEING



September is a legislative reset time: Kids are starting back to school, and that rhythm of life is eating up everyone's time – especially Fall sports. Housing applications and sales take a hit this time of year and as the summer season cools off stores begin to rush fall holidays. With logistical backlogs dropping off, and new and redundant venues for many parts, the question of price reductions or inflationary pressure are fresh on economists' minds. Housing markets are cooling like September

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nights and giving a preview of what could happen if the Fed continues its rate raising efforts. Those, however, are likely to continue, at least until election year gets going and the wage market softens. Housing markets in other countries are breaking already, Canada and the UK leading the way, with the Polish Central Bank having had enough and reversing course.

HUD Goes After False Racial Discrimination Claims Against Landlord: Housing discrimination is a very serious issue and when it happens, it leaves a stain on all housing providers – and should be dealt with immediately. A woman in Cincinnati is facing federal charges after allegedly making false claims that her landlord had racially discriminated against her. According to the report, prosecutors said the tenant lied to investigators and fabricated messages from her landlord to support her claims that she was being racially discriminated against. She sent the US Attorney's Office several text messages she claimed were from her landlord. Click here to read more about it.



WHAT WE'RE SAYING



Don't be that guy: With junk fees being targeted by the Feds, and they in turn encouraging state and local enforcement, please don't be "that guy". Remember the guy who issued a letter to his residents back in April of 2020 – during Covid, stating, "the rents due and that's that"? After national embarrassment and a few calls from attorneys looking to make a poster child of him he relented. In the same way, we are urging caution about what fees you utilize in addition to rent. Are they in your lease, clearly? Are they legal in your state? When was the last time you spoke with an attorney about those few additions over the years? Please make sure your lease and any addendums are up to speed – or you may become "that guy".



THE SMELL TEST



Nimble NIMBYs: When politicians who have been in office for years, increasing property taxes, delaying zoning changes, opposing residential development and redevelopment, suddenly ask why the housing prices are so high? That NIMBY doesn't pass the smell test, and needs to be called out for doing so!

TASSELL NOTES



Recess is over: In August was Congress was on recess and the bureaucrats on vacation – probably the safest the Republic has been in months! <u>However</u>, they're back in action this month. Brace yourselves...

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