



CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT

BUREAU OF POLICE

Investigations Division Commander

Press Release

APPLES TO ORANGES

During the past several weeks there has been several references made regarding rental ordinance in State College. Let me start off by explaining how State College and Williamsport are different. According to the latest City data report the population of State College is 41,983. Williamsport's estimated population is 29,497. The median property value in State College is \$264,100. The median property value in Williamsport is \$101,885. The percentage of persons 25 and over that hold a bachelors degree is 64.7% in State College versus 18% in Williamsport.

To give our residents an idea as to how State College compares to Williamsport in regards to crime consider the following information. There are 16 registered sex offenders in State college versus 64 registered in Williamsport. There are 2,491 residents per each registered sex offender in state college versus 458 residents per each registered sex offender in Williamsport. There are 0 murders per 100,000 people in State College versus 3.4 per 100,000 in Williamsport. There are 19.4 robberies per 100,000 in State College versus 190 per 100,000 in Williamsport. There are 130 burglaries per 100,000 in State College versus 753 per 100,000 in Williamsport. There are 1,309 thefts per 100,000 in State College versus 3331 per 100,000 in Williamsport.

Comparing State College and the city of Williamsport is like comparing apples to oranges. State College is obviously a college town with a major university with over 40,000 students attending. Williamsport has several small colleges but in no way is considered a college town.

The State College rental ordinance that is being referenced is aimed at college housing and addresses the typical nuisances and crimes that one would expect from college life. Their ordinance imposes a point system for things such as disorderly conduct, alcohol, noise, furnishing alcohol to minors, sexual assault, rape, and assault among a few others. It is obvious upon examining the State college Ordinance that it was meant to control the behavior of college students as State College has a significant number of college students living in their community.

The Ordinance being worked on in Williamsport is aimed at absentee landlords and transient tenants who show no regard for our community's quality of life and refuse to conform to the Williamsport way of life. Williamsport's ordinance will address disruptive conduct by tenants who disturb others in their buildings and on adjacent properties. Williamsport's ordinance will hold landlords with implied or actual knowledge of drug activity such as selling or distributing narcotics accountable to remedy

the situation or face penalties. Williamsport's ordinance will hold landlords with implied or actual knowledge of criminal activity involving a firearm accountable to remedy the situation. Williamsport's ordinance will hold landlords with implied or actual knowledge of a tenant who has been charged or convicted of murder, manslaughter, assault with a deadly weapon and possession of an illegal firearm among others accountable to remedy the situation or face penalties.

This ordinance has become necessary due to decades of finger pointing and turning a blind eye to the truth that we have tolerated illegal activities at rental properties for years. YOU the public deserve to know the truth behind the problems we are facing in Williamsport. For the landlords who are fearful of our proposed ordinance, please ask yourselves this one question. Would you want to live next door to your rental property and have your tenants as neighbors? The residents of the City of Williamsport should have a supportive city government that can be counted on to insure that these rental properties are held accountable for the negative impact that they cause on the quality of life, property values, and the safety and well being of our citizens.