



CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT

BUREAU OF POLICE

Investigations Division Commander

APPLES TO APPLES

The residents of the City of Williamsport are being fed misleading information regarding the Williamsport rental ordinance by many individuals with hidden agendas. One attempt to mislead our residents was by some individuals proposing that Williamsport model our ordinance after State College. In a previous article, I outlined why this would make no sense and how it is like comparing apples to oranges. Now, let's look at some facts and logic that makes sense.

The City of Wilkes Barre was the latest city to take a stand against rental properties and the affect they have on drugs and crime in their community with their city council voting 5-0 upon first reading. Let's examine how Wilkes Barre and Williamsport stack up against each other.

The population of Wilkes Barre is 41,243 according to city-data. The population of Williamsport is 29,497 according to city-data. The median income in Wilkes Barre is \$30,033 compared to \$29,497 in Williamsport. The median gross rent is \$612 in Wilkes Barre compared to \$604 in Williamsport. The percentage of persons 25 yrs and older that hold a bachelors degree is 14.8 % in Wilkes Barre compared to 18% in Williamsport.

To give our residents an idea of how Wilkes Barre compares to Williamsport in regards to crime consider the following information. There are 56 registered sex offenders in Wilkes Barre versus 64 in Williamsport. There are 732 residents per sex offender in Wilkes Barre compared to 458 residents per sex offender in Williamsport. There are 4.8 murders per 100,000 in Wilkes Barre versus 3.4 murders per 100,000 in Williamsport. There are 309 robberies per 100,000 in Wilkes Barre versus 190 per 100,000 in Williamsport. There are 761 burglaries per 100,000 in Wilkes Barre versus 753 per 100,000 in Williamsport. There are 2,594 thefts per 100,000 in Wilkes Barre versus 3,331 per 100,000 in Williamsport.

As you can see the crime statistics are very similar. Wilkes Barre city leaders took a hard stance with a 5-0 vote at first reading. The City of Williamsport's city leaders need to take a similar stance in regards to our ordinance that will have similar language as Wilkes Barres ordinance.

Many people continue to argue that there are other laws and ordinances already on the books to crack down on tenants of rental properties. While there are certainly other laws on the books there is no tool that would give law enforcement and codes the teeth to bite the head of the snake the way this proposed ordinance does. This ordinance is a huge tool to curb drug activity and drug related crime. The goal of this ordinance is not to penalize the landlords but to increase dialog in a cooperative effort to protect our city and its residents from drugs and drug related crime that has taken over our neighborhoods.

Captain Timothy S. Miller
Williamsport Bureau of Police

THIS MESSAGE IS APPROVED BY MAYOR GABRIEL CAMPANA