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# Fixing rent regulation? Stop the cheaters

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We hear a lot about the dreadful scourge of Airbnb users removing apartments from the rental market. In response, the city performs intrusive investigations to find apartments illegally rented to tourists. Draconian fines are levied. Obviously the city cares a lot about maximizing availability of apartments so real tenants can rent them.

The city should direct the same firepower against a market distortion that may remove more apartments from the market than Airbnb ever did: thousands or maybe tens of thousands of rent-regulated apartments being held by people who have actually moved away but leave their apartments vacant for use as needed.

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