## **CINCINNATI RENTAL CONNECTION**

## To Connect Prospective Tenants with Registered Rental Units

Landlords in Cincinnati will be required to register over 20,000 properties containing over 70,000, apartment units. This new registry completely modern and online offers a unique opportunity to incentivize registration in the new Cincinnati Residential Rental Property system.

This proposal is to encourage landlords to register voluntarily and maintain up to date information on the registry. As a completely optional benefit after registering, landlords will be able to create their own private account in the registry to make available to the public vacant rental units at no additional charge to the landlords.

The registry, if landlords are in favor of such a benefit and the City authorizes expansion of the registry program, would have a public facing website that will display on a map, vacant rental units available to citizens looking to rent an apartment. The landlord would have the option to display the contact information for a rental agent that the apartment hunters can contact.

Participation in the outward facing "Rental Connection" for tenants would be completely voluntary by landlords. Only landlords who wish to participate would "check a box" in their registry account that would make their vacancies visible on the outward facing rental connection portion of the rental registry. The new registration ordinance requests information on the size of the units, average rents, and number of bathrooms, and if the unit is accessible. This information can be displayed for apartment hunters on the map and searched by the type unit the tenant can afford in an area they wish to live.

The landlord need only go into their registry account and "check the vacant box" next to the size unit in the building they have available, and the vacant unit would appear on the Rental Connection portal for apartment hunters. Prospective tenants can use the portal to search by unit size, price range, and neighborhood, at no cost to the landlords who register the property and maintain the registry information.

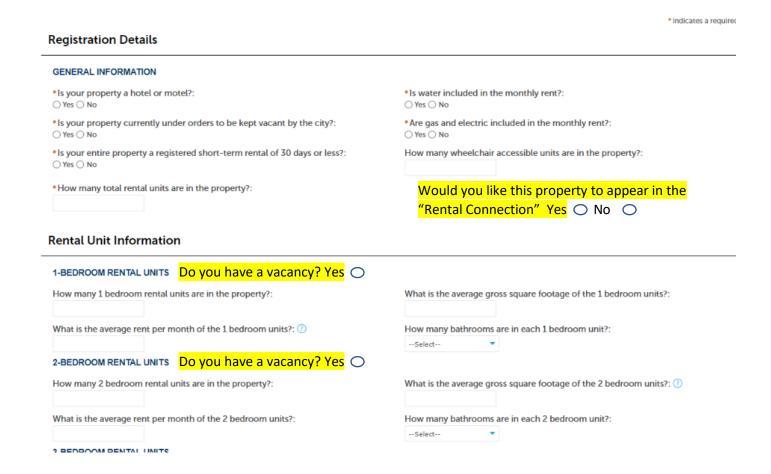
In today's housing shortage and folks with disabilities looking for accessible apartments such a feature could benefit landlords, tenants, and the City. Since the registry is being created in partnership with landlords and will require effort on both parties to establish, it makes sense to leverage the data being collected to help landlords and tenants connect with the right housing situation, and to make use of the significant amount of data for the public in need of finding the right housing. The city wishes to create a benefit and incentive for landlords to register and avoid penalties such as fines for not registering. Incentivized voluntary registration, a prosperous vital rental market, and citizens in the best available housing situation is the benefit the City will receive for making the "Rental Connection" feature available for landlords and tenants.

## **KEY POINTS:**

- No additional charge to Landlords or Tenants
- Incentivizes voluntary registration
- Landlords can "op out" and simple register the property and not participate in the connection
- Only the phone number of the rental agent contact need be shown on the "Connection"
- Helps tenants find the best housing situation they can afford in a place they want to live for longevity of tenancy and less turnover
- Gives landlords the ability to show rental units they have on the market to the public at no cost by simply turning on and off the vacant unit designation in their registry account.

The following are screen shots of how the registry may appear.

Landlord enter the information in the online rental registry. The option to participate would be available. If there is a vacancy in a 1- bedroom for example, the vacancy box is checked "Yes". Once rented the landlord logs into the registry "uncheck" the box, and the unit no longer appears on the public "Rental Connection" website.



The landlord need only create and account and register the property to participate. A new Person Contact filed would be added called "Rental Agent", this could be a phone number or e-mail of the person who is tasked with taking rental applications and showing apartments etc.

This screen shot shows the City Website for Vacant Foreclosed Properties that require registration. A Rental Connection would have similar features. The map shows location and information can be searched by neighborhood with property details in a table and a link to e-mail information (which would be to the rental agent)

