A different way to verify business licenses is to implement a system that only takes three options for the policy number: Pending, Exempt, or the actual policy number. The policy number field can be a text box that only takes in policy numbers that are formatted correctly. If a user puts in a number that does not match the correct format, then the system does not let listing go live and prompts the user to enter a valid policy number. This new system would ensure that a user does not put in an invalid policy number and involves more verification instead of just requiring the user to fill out one text box before uploading their listing. One argument that may be presented in response to this new system is that it's unnecessary and that the current system works fine. However, the fact that we were able to find an invalid policy number (listing id 16204265) poses an issue. This illegal rental is taking away from locals and furthering the housing insecurity issue. Additionally, it can be argued that this makes the process of uploading a new listing more tedious as it would require more form fields to fill out. However, the new system will ensure that no listings with invalid policy numbers are able to make it to the site. So, making this task a little more tedious in order to verify that the short term rentals have valid business licenses seems to be a fair tradeoff.

If I were a data scientist working with a housing activist organization to fight against housing insecurity, I would like to use the data that we've created through web-scraping to find out if there is any correlation between housing insecurity and the cost of housing. This could help us determine to what extent the cost of housing affects housing insecurity for a particular area.

A factor I think it's important to consider when discussing the legality of web scraping is the intent behind it. While I understand that web scraping tools can be abused, they can also be used for good as well. So, I think it's important to consider the intent behind why someone is web scraping when determining the legality of this issue.

One guideline that could be considered when deciding whether or not to use public data is whether we have been given consent to use it. Although it can be argued that because this is public data there is no need to get consent, people are entitled to a level of transparency in regards to how their data can be used even if it is public information. When an individual's data is used without their consent it can feel like a breach of privacy, even if it is public data. An additional guideline that should be considered is how the data that is acquired through web scraping public data is used. We must ensure that the web scraping tools are not abused and are

instead being used in an ethical manner. An example would be scraping public data to get emails for the purpose of mass spamming individuals in order to sell a product. The purpose of this would be solely for profit which may not be considered ethical. On the other hand, web scraping public data to answer research questions that could benefit society would be a situation where the use of this public data would be ethical.