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To: DL - Council; Comp Plan Update
Cc: vacationrentalsorcass@gmail.com
Subject: Vacation Rental Concerns

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I have just returned from three weeks in two villages along the Amalfi coast in Italy.

Like Orcas they have long been dependent on seasonal tourism but find themselves now fighting to maintain both identity and infrastructure in the face of a tourism tsunami. The popularity of vacation rentals and airbandbs recently spilled into their narrow streets and lemon terraced hills fueled by a search for an authentic experience of the Mediterranean ,one that Sorrento, Capri and Positano with tripled transient daytrippers can no longer provide.

These villages took immediate and stringent steps, including banning new building in certain locations and restricting bus access and limiting parking. They remain unresponsive to requests that shops stay open from 12 to 2 for the convenience of tourists and they refuse to serve pizza by the slice as" take out ,"or sell cheap lemon themed souvenirs from China.

We must be be proactive as well, and not a moment too soon.A MORATORIUM on NEW Vacation rental permits is ESSENTIAL. We can then find time to fine tune requirements for existing rentals__their maintenance, management and manners.

I, for one, believe we have already drifted too far in the direction of “guaranteed whales” and fattening wallets. Like these Italian villages we need to identify our unique appeal and preserve it , or, we too will become “too touristy and crowded”, then bypassed, with dire effects , both economic and visual.

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