

Sophia Cassam

From: Sharon Abreu <sharmuse@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 3:17 PM
To: Comp Plan Update; San Juan County Council
Cc: vacationrentalsorcas@gmail.com
Subject: My comments regarding the vacation rental situation on Orcas Island

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Dear San Juan County Council and Comp Plan Committee Members,

I am submitting here my comments with regard to the vacation rental situation on Orcas:

I am an 18-year resident of Orcas Island, and very fortunate to live in a house owned by my partner. However, for most of my adult life before moving to Orcas, I was a renter, and had never owned a home.

Several years back, the Vusario homeowners' association (VMA) voted to NOT allow vacation rentals of less than a month at a time on our hill. We were concerned about the safety of the people who live here and what having a constant stream of strangers would do to our neighborhood, in addition to the liability issues around having people on vacation and possibly drinking or taking drugs during that time in our neighborhood and on our road.

It is a problem for us that the county doesn't consider HOA restrictions, nor does it include HOA restrictions on the information available to the public about who is currently doing vacation rentals.

People living on Orcas often don't make much money. We know that. We need decent rental housing for all those residents who can't afford to buy a home. Living on Orcas shouldn't be about making a lot of money off a house you own. It should be about supporting the health of our community and those who want to live here and work here.

I have seen some of the places people have rented on Orcas, and some of those are not fit for living in. People need decent, healthy (not moldy) places to live and that should be our priority. We will continue to get plenty of tourists. But making money from them off our homes (or second or third homes) should not be a priority. It's unethical, and it's damaging to our local community.

I believe that a moratorium would be a valuable first step in this process.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Sharon Abreu
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