

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Richard Bell <rhbell128@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 5:39 PM  
**To:** Council Public Comment  
**Cc:** Mimi Hanks-Bell  
**Subject:** Vacation Rental Moratorium

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Dear Council Members,

My wife and I have owned a home on Orcas Island for 18 years. We have rented our homes in the summer season. We occupy the house for a few months in the spring and fall. We have hired an Orcas resident to manage the property and she gets 40% of the rental income. The rental income has allowed us to make improvements in our home and keep it in good condition. So the rental license has worked well for us. Nevertheless, we understand the problems that have become apparent in the last few years because of a glut of rental properties and abuses of the system. The resources on Orcas Island cannot bear this additional load. We would support a moratorium on new licenses for a year while Council determines the best path forward. We would recommend reducing the number of existing licenses to a number that the county can accommodate without endangering the quality of life here. Following that, new licenses could be issued as existing ones are given up. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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