

Erika Shook

From: Bob Parrish <parrish@rockisland.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 10:37 AM
To: Council Public Comment
Subject: Fw: Air B&B Moritarium Typo Corrected Please discard prior copy

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From: [Bob Parrish](#)
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 10:30 AM
To: councilpc@sanjuanco.com
Subject: Air B&B Moritarium

I would like to enter the following into comments of record regarding the upcoming hearing.

I would like to suggest that the Council take steps that create more of a balance between the desires of the tourist industry and benefits to the residents of San Juan County. Tourism is a very high impact industry which affects us all for the direct or even indirect benefit of a few.

The most vocal and persistent comments come from the marketing firms that seek to increase without limits the extent of this industry. Their goals, like any business, are to continue to expand without any apparent effort to create sustainability. They quote the benefits of tourism in terms of dollars and infer that their industry is the only economic solution. I believe a better way is to understand that there needs to be a balance between quantity and quality. What we are really marketing is the perception of a truly civil culture which stands in stark contrast to frenzied world where many of our visitors come from.

Towards that goal of balance I propose that we limit vacation home permits to resident landowners. Maui County, HI has done that. Of course we would have to implement that with fairness for all.

The idea is to:

1. create more long term rentals of a greater variety.
2. create owner accountability so that when the impacts of visitors create problems it is your neighbor islander that is held accountable.
3. provide an economic boost for resident vacation home owners.
4. put a limit on growth of vacation rentals. At present vacation rentals when full double the county population on a daily basis. This one to one ratio is not uncommon. Many tourist towns now have ratios of visitors to residents of 3 or 4 to one. Talking with residents of those towns most agree that the impacts don't begin to balance benefits. Visit Moab, Jackson Hole, Martha's Vineyard anywhere in the US or around the world. I'd rather that not be our future.
4. create economic diversity to gain balance and sustainability. For example, make "Made in the San Juans" a registered trademark. Take some of the lodging tax revenue and create benefits for islanders instead of just rolling it into creating more tourism.

I often walk down to Agate Beach and it is always a pleasure to meet 4 or 5 visitors there. In an instant we are joined by a common appreciation of a beautiful experience. However, when there are 30 or 40 visitors it is not the same experience. We have limited resources and can be good hosts to a limited number of guests.

presented by
Robert Parrish

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