

Adam Zack

From: Chris Greacen <chrisgreacen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Comp Plan Update
Cc: Sorrel North; Chuenchom Sangarasri Greacen
Subject: Moritorium on vacation rentals on Lopez, please

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

We have a full-on housing crisis on Lopez Island, brought on in part by vacation rentals. Home owners who would otherwise rent out homes to locals are renting them by the day or by the week at much higher prices to tourists. There are lots of tourists, but local businesses are limited in their ability to sell services to them because it is proving impossible to hire enough staff. Local businesses can't hire staff because staff need housing, which is all gobbled up by the vacation rentals. Haven Restaurant, I have heard, is only able to offer take-out sandwiches because they can't find staff.

One of the hats on Lopez Island I wear is Lopez Island School Board Director. We hired a new Superintendent who has been working with the school since June and has been unable to find a house to rent or buy. Only now, after more than a month of commuting from a long-stay hotel in Burlington has he finally been able to find a place to make an offer on.

I suggest consideration of an immediate moratorium on vacation rental permits so that at least the problem won't continue to get worse. This doesn't solve the problem, but it allows us to catch our breath and start towards a solution -- which will likely involve changing zoning and other requirements to allow for clustered homes outside the urban growth area.

Best wishes,

Chris

Chris Greacen, Ph.D.
44 Tuatara Rd.
Lopez Island, WA 98261
USA: +1 360 468 3189