

Adam Zack

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:46 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: FW: Proposed use of Vacation rentals caps

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From: Anji Ringzin <anji@rockisland.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 1:57 PM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>; San Juan County Council <councilvm@sanjuanco.com>
Cc: Robert Austin <robert@mindplace.com>; keepsanjuanswild@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed use of Vacation rentals caps

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Dear Members of the SJPC and CC,

This letter is regarding the issue of vacation rentals on Orcas.

I had been visiting Indralaya three or four times a year on the island since 1991 and fell in love with the tranquil beauty of the island, so, I was overjoyed when we were able to move here. We bought our house on Palisades in 1998, and were part-time residents until 2005. We have been active voices in the Orcas community, and have so enjoyed the familiarity of the faces we see around the island.

The past few years it seems our island has changed very quickly to a place crowded with tourists to the point that our family (we have three generations living here), has been unable to enjoy the things we were used to enjoying - like being able to find a parking space at the lakes. We are distressed to see the crowds and so many cars.

Years ago I used to attend the Sustainable Orcas Island meetings at the Library, where we discussed our concern regarding issues of land use, water, sewer and transportation. How can our island sustain this growth?

Last year when VR's were supposed to have a limited amount of people capacity because of Covid, one of the VR's near us on Palisades had 5 cars parked outside, 3 with Washington plates, 1 with California plates, and one with Texas plates. We had noted this same house loading extra mattresses from a truck a few weeks before. I bring this up because I wondered whether the county had any enforcement of these rules.

It also saddens me that VR's in our area create a scarcity of real local community - neighbors!

I believe our county should adopt a strict policy whereby :

1. Only Orcas residents are allowed a VR on Orcas, and only one.

2. That VR permits do not “go with the house” when it is sold.
3. That VR’s should be classified as commercial property.
4. That there be real enforcement of VR rules.
5. No new VR’s issued unless it is to a current Orcas resident, and then as in #1 only one permit.

In-home rentals where the owner lives on the property would not be included in #3 above.

Sincerely,

Anji Ringzin

Perhaps more radical solutions to our car overtourism problem could be mitigated by trying to get the clipper to bring a passenger ferry back to Rosario!