

## Adam Zack

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**From:** Lynda Guernsey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:49 AM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Establishment of fixed permanent caps on the total number of Vacation Rental Permits

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**From:** Jennifer Bryan <jinnie.bryan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 15, 2021 8:21 AM  
**To:** Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>; San Juan County Council <councilvm@sanjuanco.com>  
**Cc:** keepsanjuanswild@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Re: Establishment of fixed permanent caps on the total number of Vacation Rental Permits

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I would like to add my letter of support for the group of islander that are in **favor of establishing a fixed permanent cap on Vacation Rentals Permits.**

My family has been part of the island community for over 70 years and have had my own land since 1987. Of course like everything, there are changes. When I first arrived at the island in the late 60s, early 70s there was a very big push to preserve the islands. I remember the controversy when community members were asked to give up some of their choices in order to protect our islands and keep them special for the future. Nevertheless, fairly tight restrictions were put in place.

The future is here now but in the last 10 or so years those sacrifices we made 40 - 50 years ago are being forgotten. There is a powerful group of people willing to exploit the well being of our island, mostly for self enrichment. One of the main exploitations is all the relators and absent land owners that want to turn the island communities into a cash cow by changing our neighborhoods into resorts and forcing the people who live in the community to pay the price for their greed.

During the hearings please note when each person takes a side to the argument about limiting Vacation Rentals, what is their motivation and dedication to the islands.

. My experience is that each time the person wishes to stop restrictions that person has these characteristics.

a. They own or make money - lots of money - from the practice.

b. They lack a commitment to the island, they have a strong environmental concern for the islands, and some represent people that don't live on the island at all. ( They will say they want to help bring money to the island but vacation rentals actually don't help as much as other forms of vacation housing and cost taxpayers extra money on county infrastructure).

c. They will not mention this but my experience is that they will be the first to complain if someone puts in a transient rental next to THEIR home. ( Believe me I've seen this happen not far from my home.!)

If the person is for the limits on vacation rental that person has these characteristics.

a. They are here a lot or live full time on the island.

b. They have a true commitment to preserving the island quality that makes our island desirable not only to us but to the people who visit.

c. They likely have to personally endure the discomfort of having many of their former neighbors' homes turn into Disneyland for tourists. (loud talking and music way into the night, lights left on all night, drained community water systems, loss of the friends and help you get from a "real" neighbor" , speeding and increased traffic on neighborhood roads, and trespassing on private property.

**( Note: most of these things are banned by the laws, but if you live in an area with 20% transient rentals ( like I do) you will know that if you want these things controlled, you have to either confront the offender yourself or hope that you can eventually find someone that will come and help you.. Once you have the stress of resolving the problem, the group has used up their days and a new group arrives and the process and the confrontations begin anew .)**

When my dad (no longer living) first saw my property he said,"This is so wonderful. This area should be shared with other people". I love my home so much, I understand how lucky I am, and I realize other people should get to share the San Juans with us. I also understand the renters are probably 95% good people, that are just trying to have a good long awaited vacation. The problem is they have paid an expensive fee, this is their vacation and they aren't thinking about the fact that they are having their parties and campfires in the middle of someones everyday living space.

a. once you get more than a certain percentage of transients in your neighborhood, it no longer is desirable .... This island is big enough to spread people out so each neighborhood can maintain its integrity and still host a few of the tourists.

b. we can support resorts, bed and breakfasts, motels and hotels. With Vacation rentals we are making it hard for the hotel industry to fill up during the shoulder season. I see this happening in the resort across the bay from my home. The resort- hotel people are condensing the impact and keeping the money in the community. People using the actual resorts and motels etc.. are much more likely to eat out and spend money at a variety of island experiences and keep the money on island ( All the money in my neighborhood goes to owners off island - Seattle area mostly, one in California and one in Hawaii. ) We might be able to attract more hotels/ resorts if they don't have so much competition.

This year several homes came up for sale in the community. People here are getting old either passing away or moving to be near children. It began to seem like there was a very good possibility that actual people living in homes here would be less than the number of transient people. We were so fortunate to have two of the homes purchased by people who are permanent. The new owners are just fantastic about pitching in to be kind and helpful neighbors. Our community remains strong, but our capacity for vacationers is full. At 20 %+ of the people on our street non-neighbors, we can hardly take more and now there are at least two more homes that are currently on the market and there is little doubt that the realtors are going to push the next sales as vacation rentals in order to increase their profit.

Please Limit VACATION RENTALS