

Adam Zack

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:43 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: FW: Vacation Rental Issues on Orcas Island

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579
SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

From: annie crane <annieboonecrane@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 10:08 AM
To: Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>
Subject: Vacation Rental Issues on Orcas Island

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Hello,

I am a full time resident of Orcas Island and I would like to express my deep concern about growing tourist destination that Orcas Island has become.

My own small community of Sea Acres is now overwhelmed with vacation rentals due to the lack of regulations by the County.

Our County Council needs to stand back and take a big picture of what has made Orcas Island so special, which has unfortunately resulted in the reason why so many vacation rentals visit now and what it is being lost. Do they wish to preserve what made the Island so special?

Will it be a vibrant community of involved residents or shall it be an economy based on vacation rentals and a tourist destination temporarily (until the next economic downturn) benefiting a few individuals?

If those who wish to see the numbers of vacation rentals be a free for all , without responsibility , then they should be very pleased.

These recent types of rentals have overrun the communities of fulltime and traditional summer homes.

There have traditionally been full time residential Mom and Pop vacation dwellings where the owners live on location and are able to monitor safe behavior of their vacation renters. These have not presented a problem.

These unfair changes are due to vacation rentals that are owned by companies,businesses or individuals who many times live off Island and have been putting the safety of full time residents and the Island at risk(fire danger from out of control campfires that are already alarming their next door neighbors..etc)

And by the way, who will be financially responsible when the County has been allowing these rentals to exist without proper safety regulations, especially when an insurance company will not pay for the damages to property or life because of common sense safety violations? And this will happen if the risks are allowed to continue without the regulations that Island tourist destination hotels and B and Bs have had to abide by.

We the full time residents of these small and historic communities of Orcas Island are forced to take too many dangerous risks for the financial benefit those who have over run our Island with vacation rentals.

Many of these current residential vacation rentals used to be providing much needed long term rentals for working residents vital to the Island.

The numbers of residential community located vacation rentals are out of balance and have changed these once vibrant and caring communities,

now replacing them with people who have no moral ,financial connection or responsibility to them.

The answer is to learn from the past , if we wish to save our communities.

It must be recognized that the influx of so many vacation rentals located in residential communities has put us all at an increased frightening and precarious risk of being overly dependent primarily on vacation rentals and what will happen when any future economic downturn occurs. It will devastate the Island.I truly remember "when the last one leaves Seattle, please turn off the lights ,(Boeing...)gas line shortages, boom and bust economy. We must learn from past mistakes. Common sense tells us that we should not be taking these risks and instead plan for a strong and sustainable future.

Dependent on whether or not someone believes in the dramatic changes or not that have been occurring due to climate,drought,Covid 19 crisis or other worrisome and deeply concerning World economic issues, we should all recognize the future risk for Orcas Island of becoming primarily dependent on one industry only.

Already the problems of housing for working people has become a serious and debilitating issue for future growth and sustainability.

Let's stop debating whether Vacation rentals in our residential communities are creating a problem, as we have already proven that they are or we would not be having these discussions now.

We were just fine without them in our residential communities.

And we haven't even considered the damaging environmental impacts that will result from over tourism and growth on the very limited and fragile space on these Islands....

Please restrict and only develop vacation rentals to specific camping locations and properties , hotels, and B and Bs that will be designated areas and eliminate from our residential communities where they have proven that they are doing more harm than good.

Annie B. Crane



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