

Sophia Cassam

From: Gregory Oaksen <gregoaksen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 8:11 AM
To: Lindsay Jennings
Cc: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Re: Vacation Rental Cap

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Lindsay,
Well said!
Thanks,
Greg and Heather

On Thu, Sep 16, 2021 at 9:00 PM Lindsay Jennings <lindsay.a.jennings@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Planning Commission,

Thank you for unanimously voting for a vacation rental cap! You will be reviewing the county planning recommendations regarding the cap this Friday. I have read the memo and think it is well reasoned except for the proposed date of setting the cap based on active/compliant permits which when the ordinance is passed. I think this will result in a flood of applications prior to enactment of the cap. An alternate non-arbitrary date would be August 20, 2021 when the full commission voted for the cap. We are already way beyond the comfort level of vacation rentals on Orcas!

As a full time working mom with a child in preschool at Kaleidoscope, and as a board member of the organization, I have felt the impacts of affordable housing crisis on Orcas. School literally closes some days because there aren't enough staff to cover staff sick days. Working families depend on having reliable childcare - in order to keep businesses open that both year round residents and tourists depend on. Our childcares and preschools are struggling to find staff to provide this critical and basic service solely because of the lack of housing available! They can't move here or stay here without housing. Kaleidoscope has offered increased pay and benefits (great!!) and purchased trailers to try and creatively mitigate the housing crisis for teachers - far from ideal or sustainable - is this the best we can do for our community? Childcare is a lynchpin - if it fails, we all do. This is a fact that I don't think is taken seriously enough in community conversations about the impact of vacation rentals.

Thank you for your time and care!
Lindsay Jennings
Orcas Island Resident