

Sophia Cassam

From: Patricia Kesling-Wood <woodg006@gmail.com>
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To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: VR Comment

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To the members of the Council,

My husband and I would like to voice our disagreement with the moratorium on vacation rentals and the demonization of the vacation rental community by the anti-vacation rental committee/organization.

I grew up on San Juan Island and my sister and I still own our family cabin on Davison Head. The San Juans have undergone much change since my parents purchased their property in the '60s.

the San Juan Islands have always been a welcoming place but it seems now that when individuals are fortunate enough to purchase property here they seem to want to limit the access of others.

Those against vacation rentals are disingenuously advocating that these rentals are the cause of numerous social and economical issues here in the islands. This is not the case.

Currently with the support of San Juan Property Management (a local company which employs local people and contributes to the economy) and rules and regulations in place by Community Development, properties that are offered as vacation rentals are regulated and their compliance evaluated yearly. I feel this is satisfactory.

Throughout the years from the 60s until the present there have always been what I term "a squeaky wheels". Loud voices on the island that claim to speak for the majority who claim much but offer proof for little.

My father used to reflect that once people buy property on the island they then immediately want to change things and limit those who can visit.

I do not see vacation rentals altering communities. Our community has stayed stable even though many on Davison Head allow their property to be used this way. The parents were all friends decades past and now all of us children are friends. I do not see vacation rentals contribute to crime. In fact because our cabin is now regularly used, it does not stay vacant becoming an attractive nuisance. I do not see vacation rentals contribute to the lack of affordable housing as our cabin would not be offered in this way as we and our family members utilize it through out the year.

Allowing our property to be a vacation rental makes it possible for us to keep it in the family and support local businesses.

The moratorium should be lifted. Vacation rental approval by canvassing neighborhood support via required letters (as has been done) is an adequate way to ensure rentals in proper areas and has community support. Existing permitted rentals ought to be able to transfer their permit as has been historically allowed upon the sale of their property.

It appears those against vacation rentals are attempting to solve problems which have nothing to do with whether a property is a vacation rental or not.

As a property owner I want to be assured that I have the freedom to utilize my property as I see fit.

Respectfully

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