

Erika Shook

From: Leith Templin <leithtemplin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:47 AM
To: Jamie Stephens; Christine Minney; Cindy Wolf
Cc: Ingrid Gabriel
Subject: Today's council meeting

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January 12, 2021

Dear councilmembers Stephen, Wolf and Minne, I am unable to attend your meeting today to give public comment in person so I would like to do so in writing.

This is addressing council member Wolf's letter requesting the council to vote for a moratorium on vacation rentals today.

I was encouraged by the planning commission in December to dig deeper into the subject of vacation rentals and their work in trying to develop some potential new regulations. I look forward to their results.

I do not support a moratorium, at this time and here are my reasons why.

Our county staff and counsel have been working hard to finish the Comp Plan update and to finalize it. With our current financial problems and staffing reductions everyone is working hard to achieve this while under considerable strain. If you enact a moratorium at this time several employees will have to be taken away from the comp plan update and be dedicated to the moratorium as I understand it. The Comp plan is the backbone of our county and needs to be completed as soon as possible.

With the new vacation rental regulations that went into affect many permits were not renewed also, there were 360 in violation. I believe that if Covid had not happened the county would have been able to already process these permits and we would know exactly how many of them were not renewed. That remains to be seen but I am assured that it will happen as soon as possible and many of them will be retired.

I do feel we need a few more regulations, such as how to manage events at a vacation rentals, modify the bed and breakfast residence (homestay) regulation and some kind of a cap, either by County or by Island or something else. We can figure out how to do a camp without a moratorium. Let's put our heads together and figure it out without the states guidelines that we will have to follow and burden our staff and take away from the finishing of the Comprehensive Plan update that we so desperately need to get done.

Respectfully,

Leith Templin
Orcas

Sent from my iPad