

Erika Shook

From: joe symons <joesymons@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 2:51 PM
To: San Juan County Council
Subject: Vacation Rental Moratorium
Attachments: VRO petition sigatures feb 2021.pdf

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I write to support Council in maintaining the Vacation Rental Permit moratorium as described in the Legal Advertisement:

https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/21897/2021-02-10_Public-Hearing-Notice-for-February-23-2021-Meeting

I support the findings of fact, the work plan, and extending the moratorium until 13 Jan 2022.

I attach a pdf file containing the list of the 3058 signatories to the [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition requesting the Council implement a moratorium on VR Permits.

Over \$3000 was contributed to [change.org](https://www.change.org) (and not to the Vacation Rental Work Group) by signers in support of the moratorium. [Change.org](https://www.change.org)'s policies regarding contributions are misleading; there is no way to know how much of those donations was made under the assumption that the donor's contributions would go to the VRWG to promote conversations and educational outreach regarding this topic. Given the narrow scope of this petition (i.e., that it is directed solely to a local county and not to a national campaign such as MADD or BlackLivesMatter), it would be reasonable to assume that the vast majority of donations were made specifically to advance this initiative. I believe that the funding demonstrates the degree of concern that Council take this issue seriously.

I am also concerned about the impact on staff time were a moratorium not maintained.

With a moratorium in place, staff would:

- Not spend time processing new VR applications and be able to focus on more important issues;
- Be able to process / revoke existing non-compliant VR permits and locate illegal VRs in a more timely manner. From testimony it appears that it may take two full-time staff several months to proceed to revoke non-compliant permits ;
- There should not be any more permits than the staff has the capacity to enforce;
- Be able to work on the findings of fact and work plan;
- Engage the public in crafting proposed regulatory language to thoughtfully and wisely deal with the problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a public comment on this critical issue

Joe Symons
Olga WA

[KeepSanJuansWild.org](https://www.KeepSanJuansWild.org)