

Erika Shook

From: Linda Bannerman <lindaj@teleport.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 9:16 AM
To: Council Public Comment
Subject: Vacation Rental Moratorium
Attachments: Business Letter to the council 222 pdf.pdf

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Please forgive this duplication of an email I just sent. I forgot to include my physical address, necessary I'm to understand, for you to be able to submit this letter, enter it into the public record and to make it public. I have included my street address at the bottom. This home is owned by me, Linda Bannerman, and my former partner, Michael Poindexter and his wife, Christine Rose. So I repeat:

Please submit the following letter for inclusion in the discussion during the February 23, 2021 meeting regarding the moratorium on vacation rental permits. Please read this into the record. Please make this letter public during the meeting.

Linda Bannerman
Brad Brown
22 Key Drive
Eastsound WA 98245
360-261-4434

(Home also owned by Michael Poindexter and Christine Rose in case you are matching to records.)

The greatest perk, among countless others, that comes from loving someone right now, just exactly as they are, instead of waiting for them to change, is that you get to love someone right now.

Linda Bannerman
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To: Members of the San Juan County Council

RE: Moratorium on Vacation Rental Permits

As businesses in San Juan County, we wish to add our voices to those urging the council to rescind its decision to place a moratorium on issuing vacation rental permits, reject proposals to disallow current permits to flow with the sale of the land, reject proposals to insist that vacation rental owners re-apply for permits on a repeating schedule, and reject imposing further fees on current and future owners. Instead, we encourage you to allow the well thought out regulations established in 2018 to take effect and to pursue other ways to develop affordable housing in San Juan County. While we share the concern of many that our neighborhoods remain safe, attractive and desirable places to live and while we share the concern for a need for affordable housing on our island, we feel that the moratorium was implemented from a misguided attempt to restrict current levels of tourism on the islands. Tourism, while unpleasant for some (though certainly not all), is a critical necessity for our local economy and, of course, for the survival of our businesses. A balance, therefore, seems most desirable. The current moratorium, we believe, is unnecessary and, in fact, sends a message of hostility to current vacation rental owners, especially as it comes with suggestions for further future restrictions such as not allowing permits to flow with the sale of property, increasing fees, or putting a time limit on how long one's permit remains in effect. Such draconian measures seem to communicate not just a desire to slow or stop an increase in vacation rentals but to decrease the number currently permitted. Such measures would threaten the islands' economy and would likely bring financial distress for many who have worked hard to find a way to simply make a living here on the islands and would even seem to be a retraction for some on what they were promised by the county at the time permits and sales were granted.

We all want responsible management of vacation rentals, but we also all enjoy the benefits provided by the businesses and the support services that depend upon our tourists. We also value a spirit of welcome that is part of the charm of our communities. A moratorium and restrictive regulations that fail to actually address challenges in our community sends the opposite message.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that you rescind this moratorium, increase efforts to enforce the regulations thoughtfully put into place in 2018, reject consideration of future restrictions, and allow a balanced and nuanced solution to do its work.

Respectfully,

Ezra Richardson Contracting, Lila and Ezra Richardson Orcas
(Also owners of both commercial and residential long term rentals on Orcas)
F & H Island Holdings, Inc., Orcas
Everyday Inspired Living
Eagle Ridge Guesthouse
Crow Valley Holdings

