

Sophia Cassam

From: Susan McBain <slmcbain@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Council Public Comment
Subject: Vacation Rental Moratorium

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Dear County Council Members Minney, Stevens, and Wolf:

I support the call to establish a moratorium on vacation rentals on in the San Juan Islands.

My husband and I recently sold a small free-standing condominium home in a seven-unit community. During the three years we owned it, the one home that was a vacation rental had a number of recurrent problems: inappropriate use of community facilities, parking issues, cleanup problems, and of course the constant turnover of residents, which lessened the sense of the other owners being at home in a community of neighbors.

One rental unit was fairly tolerable. But had more than one of the units been a rental at that time (as is now the case), I believe the community would have felt more like a Home Suites than a set of neighbors. And I have friends in single-family areas who have said that they no longer have a neighborhood at all.

The real estate market, particularly on Orcas, right now is very active, and the chances of more vacation rental permits being requested are high. For all these reasons I respectfully request that you institute a moratorium on vacation rental permits for a full 12 months.

Thank you for taking time to consider my comment.

Sincerely,
Susan McBain
Orcas Island