

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Vicki Leimback <vleimback@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 6, 2021 12:10 PM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** Please read! Middle class needs this income to survive here!

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December 6th, 2021<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>  
San Juan County Council Cc: San Juan County Planning Commission (PC)<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

Dear Council Members,

For the 5th time this year, Hosting on the Rock is mobilizing for yet another grueling Public Access session. Do we really need more public comment? What we need is DATA, not more anecdotal, emotionally-based testimony.

Council will deliberate on whether to extend the Moratorium for another six months. What exactly do you intend to do during this time? We want particulars! Who is going to do studies? What are they going to study? What is the schedule? Don't give us more vague Work Plans attached to vague "Findings". We want a realistic action plan.

How many VRs are too many? Why? What is over-tourism? How many new residents moved here during the Pandemic? Have the 2018 regulations improved the neighborhood concerns they targeted?

We don't think it's possible for the over-stressed Department of Community Development to answer the relevant questions in six months.

By severely limiting new permits, you are limiting the ability of local residents to continue to live here. Only wealthy individuals can own homes that they leave vacant. Working residents require income to live here! Permits should be available for locals to boost their income during unforeseen life events.

A suggestion:

End the Moratorium. Set a temporary cap of 45 new permits per year for 3 years.

Commit to re-visiting this discussion in 2025. During the next 3 years, commission third-party studies that address specific issues.

Streamline the enforcement process, both for non-permitted rentals and for non-compliant permits. Consolidate the SJC VR data and make it publicly available.

To sum up the VR discussion in 2021:

There are hundreds of residents who have strong view points on this issue. There is no relevant data to help identify and solve specific issues. If the 'discussion' continues in the current manner, the divide between people will continue to intensify.

Let's put a compromise in effect (45 new permits per year for 3 years) and focus on this issue in a meaningful way!

Respectfully,

Vicki Leimback  
Orcas Island full time resident and VR owner

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**Vicki Leimback**

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