

Sophia Cassam

From: Brien S <bsesby@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:32 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: Repeal vacation rental moratorium

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Dear County Council,

We are strongly opposed to the recent moratorium that you have recently enacted on New Vacation Rental Applications for the following reasons:

- Less than 3 years ago San Juan County Council adopted updated Vacation Rental standards with Ordinance 02-2018. (**18.40.275 of the Unified Development Code**). Within this ordinance are “rules of conduct” that address environmental impacts, safety, noise, trespass, a required 24/7 local representative for each VR and public health.
- There are “teeth” in the ordinance if there is non-compliance (*paragraph J*): “*Vacation rental permits vested or approved after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section shall expire two years after the date of approval unless the annual certificates of compliance meeting the requirements of subsection (K)(4) of this section are on file with the administrator.*” Clearly the county council, planning staff and the planning commission put a lot of thought into creating an enforceable set of standards to manage potential impacts from the VR businesses.
- Ord. 02-2018 requires that a VR application goes through the *Conditional Use Permit (CUP)* process. Under the former rules, VRs could be permitted under a much easier “*Provisional Use Permit*”. The CUP process can be lengthy and expensive. There is ample opportunity for public comment and an appeal process. In fact, it is not a given that a VR applicant will be successful in getting through the *existing* process. **We feel there has been no justification for the County Council to have adopted the Vacation Rental Moratorium.**

We, as San Juan Island business owners, have all struggled together through the historic COVID 19 pandemic. We have been told “we are all in this together.” We strongly feel that you as our County Council, by enacting the Moratorium on Vacation Rental applications, has acted in a damaging and unnecessary manner in the midst of an already difficult time for most island businesses.

We respectfully ask you to REPEAL the Vacation Rental Moratorium immediately. We need our elected officials to support local, businesses and jobs!