

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Jamey Hance <jamey@westbeachresort.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 15, 2022 10:45 AM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** VR Caps Comment

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Dear County Council –

My name is Jamey Hance, General Manager West Beach Resort on Orcas Island. I am writing in support of implementing a cap on vacation rental permits and for the Council to recognize and immediately adopt strategies to address the problem of VRs in the islands.

Our resort has been in continuous operation since 1938. Along with other resorts and hotels in the islands, we follow all requirements and laws of local, state, and federal agencies not only for lodging but for amenities such as food service, activities, hot tubs, etc. VRs are not required to follow most of the requirements we are forced to follow, and within a matter of minutes, anyone can log into AirBNB and have their listing up, running, and making bookings.

The requirements imposed on lodging establishments are so that lodging is provided to the public in a safe manner while also considering impact to our community. As of this morning, AirBNB is offering 503 lodgings on Orcas Island alone. I am sure there are more. That is 503 “hotels” in your backyard that are not subject to most of lodging laws. Many of these listings have hot tubs, activities, and are even serving food – all of which are completely unregulated. Who is responsible when this free-for-all of AirBNBs continue to go unrelated and someone gets hurt as a result? I am sure it has already happened and will surely happen again. Most of these listing owners don't live here and don't care how they impact our community.

I urge the Council to more aggressively tackle this problem and impose caps, limits, and regulations on the “wild west” of VRs in the islands. It is time to level the playing field and treat all lodging establishments the same in the interest of public safety and to protect our community.

Thank you,

Jamey Hance  
General Manager  
West Beach Resort, Inc.