

Sophia Cassam

From: Ed Lutz <elutz98433@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 10:51 PM
To: San Juan County Council; Comp Plan Update
Cc: vacationrentalsorcass@gmail.com
Subject: Vacation Rental Concerns

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a full time resident of Orcas I am concerned about the impact of vacation rentals have on our community, environment and long term housing shortage. Some EU countries are experiencing similar issues and governments are taking positive steps to mitigate some of the problems. After reading recent Sounder articles about the County Council's thoughts and the Department of Community Development's housing report, it appears no actionable plans are being developed to resolve the lack of long term housing. The County government wants "adequate, safe, affordable, stable housing" but is hoping non-profits and developers solve this problem.

One possible action would be for the business community, school districts, and local chambers of commerce work with vacation rental owners to provide incentives or subsidize housing for both full time and summer hires. The County could provide tax breaks to rental property owners if they rent long term. No easy solutions exist to solve this problem but leadership must come from the government with the help from business, non-profits, developers, and concerned citizens.

I have vacation rentals on both sides of my residence. In the past two years my neighbor's boat was taken for a joy ride without his permission, a boat beached itself on my property to off load passengers and provisions, a person drug his large cooler up my steps from the beach, had to notify rental owner of loud parties and having several people walking and running through my property. So I know first hand how vacation renters negatively affect the community. Our full time neighbors respect each others property and privacy.

Thank you in advance for reading my comments and thoughts.

Ed Lutz

Sent from my iPad