

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Lisl Thomsen <lsltmsn7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 9:21 AM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** VR comments

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I request the council take time to consider the quality of the recommendation. Its language is vague, and less than sound. This impresses that perhaps there is more time needed towards this issue and this document before making it official.

Regarding Findings B: "a conclusion reached as a result of an inquiry, investigation, or trial".

1. Many of our guests are here specifically to visit members of the community, as their family. Many others are staying in transient rental because they would like to move to Orcas and become members of the community. Many return year after year.
2. Not all Full time residents contribute to a sense of community.
3. Stating that VR guests are outnumbering residents is false and completely unsupported by any actual data. Perhaps this is an effort to address clusters of VR homes in specific neighborhoods...if this is a concern, the recommendations do not address this issue directly.

Regarding Findings E: "It is appropriate to evaluate the impact of VRs on the environment, neighborhoods and the community."

1. These are concerns that should be applied to all residences of the islands. NOT restricted or focused to VR's.
2. It is NOT appropriate to assume negative impact without doing an evaluation.

Regarding the proposed limit on VRs at 650 permits for five years:

Wealth disparity is one of the leading problems for SJC residents who need to work to live here. By limiting VR permits so severely, the county will limit the ability of residents to stay in this high-cost county.

Also it is vague language, where exactly does it leave us in 5 years?

Another consideration, In the last couple years Orcas has had 3 large VR/bed and breakfast properties bought for private residences. The number of lost guest accommodations has got to be around 50 beds. That is a significant reduction in the established availability of accommodations for the island. How does the county consider this sort of event into it's permit restrictions as well as it's concern for the economic impact it will inevitably have on the islands' economy?

I beg that you take the time and consideration to address this issue and not rush to pass something that is just close enough, in order to get it off your desk.

Thank you,  
Lisl Thomsen