

Sophia Cassam

From: Patty Pirnack <ppirnack50@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 9:02 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: Close Vacation Rental Loopholes

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Dear Sophia,

We are writing about the loophole that seems to allow vacation rentals of houses through AirBnB and VRBO etc to apply and receive permitting when they are not Bed and Breakfast establishments. To be a permitted Bed and Breakfast the rooms rented are required to be contained within the main housing structure with the serving of breakfast. More and more single and multiple housing units are using the B and B permitting to be rented when they are single homes and NOT Bed and Breakfast Single Dwellings. This is putting a strain on the already serious housing shortage in the county. In 2015 the American Community Surve showed homes for seasonal, recreational or occasional use make up 81 percent of vacant homes in the County. That is incredible! This has been a long standing issue since we have moved here in 1987 and 1992 respectively. There has always been a FULL TIME rental shortage. In earlier times it was people who rented their vacant homes out for 9 months of the year, then kicked the renters out and used the house as a Vacation Rental for 3 months. That was unsustainable in those times. Now that vacation rental services such as AirBnB and VRBO exist and people are doing their own advertising, the rental situation has gotten to the point of NO RENTALS and homes available to buy are off the charts and are not affordable. The Bed and Breakfast loopholes are being used to build multiple dwellings on Resource and AG lands which is not legal as I understand it or in compliance of our own county codes, the GMA and the Comprehensive plan. These loopholes must be closed and the development of more vacation rentals under the guise of Bed and Breakfast dwellings must be stopped as well as enforced.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia Pirnack
James Hamilton
213 Hamilton Drive, Eastsound, Wa. 98245