

PSLU Committee

From: Jess Bardos <noworriesinthe808@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2019 5:39 PM
To: PSLU Committee
Subject: PSLU-24- Short Term Vacation Rentals

Aloha,

I am a single Mom raising two teenage daughters. We have lived in Paia for 13 years now on the same street. As I must work full time I will be unable to attend tomorrow's community meeting. Please accept this email as my humble testimony in reference to the topic of short term rentals in Paia and Haiku.

Please put a stop to the vacation rentals in Paia.

It has been problematic for years.

In the past 10 years, my family and I have attempted to shut down three short-term vacation rentals on our very small one lane road. The last time that attention was brought to one of the homeowners of the illegal vacation rental it resulted in retaliation against my family. With the onus on the neighbors in a neighborhood to report any illegal vacation rental, it leaves us open to harassment and retaliation with absolutely no protection from the authorities.

The short-term vacation rental that we last reported, well that has since been sold to a French National who still runs vacation rentals out of the home with the help of a French website advertising the rental. However I am sure you can understand my hesitation in even attempting to report them to the County, having already been harassed previously for doing just that.

In addition to that vacation rental, there is another home owned by a foreign woman that lives off island most of the time. She has rented out the front of the home to a "long-term renter" and converted the rest of the yard into small "huts" for the vacation rentals. There are a total of 3 short-term vacation rental huts on this property encased by a high wall. We have no way of reaching her should a problem arise and she has expressed that she has no care as to what effect the rentals have on the families living in the neighborhood. How does the County expect to regulate that?

There are also multiple homes that are using their sheds as vacation rentals. How does one even attempt to regulate those?

This is an impossible problem. It is impossible to regulate and enforce considering the sheer number. The rentals multiple. Once it seems that a vacation rental has slid under the radar, it's only a short amount of time before another pops up close by. This creates a constant problem for the residents of the neighborhoods which is unacceptable. If I wanted to raise my family around visitors/tourists, I would have bought a unit in a resort. We moved to Paia knowing that it would be conducive to raising a family in a neighborhood setting. Our move was planned and executed with great care to maintain the familial way of life for our children's upbringing. We had no idea that the community would not hold up it's end of the bargain.

Stop the vacation rentals. Most of the owners of said rentals do not even live on island and as such are unaffected by the consequences of these rentals. It is not supporting the Maui way of life in the least. As a matter of fact, is stifling it. These homes should belong to or at the very least be rented to families that live here. There is a housing shortage. Everywhere. Family homes are not for vacation rentals. Why is this not obvious? Family homes are for families, for supporting the familial way of life.

The greediness has surpassed our care for the people of the island. Our County can't regulate it or enforce it. It has become our responsibility as the actual residents of Maui County to report these vacation rentals, which has become a full-time job for people that quite frankly already have full time jobs.

It is simple. Our neighborhoods do not have a security team, we do not have a "guest list" that we are privy to. We do not have parking garages with CCTV. We do not have contact information for the property owners should a problem arise. We have no knowledge of the strangers coming to our neighborhood. These are all steps taken by resorts and complexes to provide security to their guests and residents. Can you offer us these basic security measures in your attempt to regulate these vacation rentals?? If the answer is no, then clearly it all needs to stop.

There are other communities in our country that have completely banned short-term vacation rentals in support of their residents. It's reasonable to say that Paia and Haiku are nice places for tourists to visit while they are vacationing on Maui, but the pleasure to reside in Paia and Haiku should be reserved for our residents only.

Our street is small. Our families are vulnerable. Our children are confused. Give us back the notion of ACTUAL neighbors in neighborhoods instead of the steady swinging saloon-door of strangers in rental cars.

I thank you for this opportunity to be heard and I thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Jessica Bardos