

From: annettegilk@gmail.com
To: [sbcob](#)
Subject: STR"s in the Coastal Zone
Date: Friday, August 24, 2018 2:49:38 PM

8-24-18

Dear Santa Barbara County Clerk,

My name is Annette Gilkeson and I built a home in the Coastal Zone at More Mesa Shores 18 years ago. I rent my house out to vacation renters during the summer months when I plan on being away. I do this so that I can afford to stay in my home after a divorce, as well as having the peace of mind that someone is looking after my home while I'm away. I have a very strict contract and my neighbors have no problem with my guests. There have been no complaints

Short term renters are often going to be better neighbors than homeowner or long-term renter neighbors because they are extensively interviewed and regulated and held accountable. I mostly rent to families that prefer a home to a hotel so they can spend quality time together with relatives and walk to the beach. Often, they say all the hotels in Santa Barbara are booked up, and staying in my house all together turns out to be a much cheaper option! They are happy to be here, and they spend a lot of money in our community. These families of usually 8 to 10 would never stay at my house if I were there too as a Homestay.

I have lived and owned businesses in Santa Barbara for over 40 years. Homeowners in Santa Barbara pay a premium to buy their homes and pay a lot of money in property taxes for the right to live in our homes the way we please. How dare the city and now the county that we live and pay taxes in take away our freedom and rights in our own homes? With unfriendly rules and regulations, no wonder nobody wants to do business here and soon people won't visit here or be able to afford to live in Santa Barbara either.....accept maybe the homeless!! Take a look at State Street, homeless people and vacancies.

There is a need for vacation rentals in the community where families can affordably spend time at the beach together! Santa Barbara has spent a lot of money to promote tourism because it brings money to our businesses and SB thrives on tourism.

Please allow us to serve the community and be able to afford the high cost of living to stay here. The opportunity to rent my house once in a while is an easy and beautiful answer to the problem of affordable housing in SB. Homeowners like myself that use their principle place of residence to do STR's are not taking away housing from long term renters. With TOT taxes it is a win/win! Please regulate but don't ban Short Term Rentals, ESPECIALLY in the coastal zone.

Allowing regulated Vacation Rentals or "STR's" is a fantastic cost-effective way to accommodate the need for affordable housing in Santa Barbara, bring families to the beaches, help tourism based businesses and raise money for Santa Barbara with TOT taxes!

Respectfully,
Annette Gilkeson
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