

Planning Commission Meeting

October 15, 2020

Short-Term Rental Bill

Written Comments

The following written comments were submitted on time and were considered by the Planning Commission on October 15, 2020:

- Susan Orth, Santa Fe Association of REALTORS

The following written comments were submitted late and were not a part of the record considered by the Planning Commission on October 15, 2020 (but are provided for consideration at subsequent committee meetings):

- Natalie Bovis
- Marc Choyt
- Teri Hackler
- Kitty Moss
- Elise Noble
- Sandra Noe
- Leroy Pacheco
- Toral Patel, Airbnb
- Amy Rose
- Kim Schilling
- Bonnie Smith
- Richard Woodruff



October 12, 2020

Dear City of Santa Fe Planning Commissioners:

The Santa Fe Association of REALTORS® appreciates the City of Santa Fe Planning Commission and city leaders ongoing work to improve the proposed short-term rental ordinance. In response to public input and commissioners' concerns, a revision has been introduced for the planning commission's consideration at its upcoming October 15, 2020 meeting.

The association is pleased with a number of key changes proposed by the planning commission that have been adopted in the revision. Specifically, the association supports the changes related to retaining exemptions and registrations for non-residential properties; clarifying the role of a natural person in the permitting process; expand the non-transferability of a permit in certain circumstances; and clarifying the "grandfather" clauses that would have allowed the land use director to revoke a permit upon expiration.

There remain several issues that the association would encourage planning commission members to review and consider taking action.

The revision has amended the originally proposed 75-foot radius density requirement for new permits to a 50-foot radius from the boundary of the property. The planning commission had a thoughtful discussion regarding any new density requirement which our members believed was important and valuable given the highly dense nature of the downtown area. The new density requirement will likely result in preventing any new short-term rental permits to be issued in these areas while grandfathering in existing operators-some with several units. Due to this concern, the association believes this restriction on density remains unworkable, may invite litigation, and will negatively impact property rights. For many homeowners, it would be difficult to make such a determination without significant support from the land use department as property owners will not know the proximity of permitted units. The association strongly suggests the commission consider retaining the existing density requirement *"short-term rental permits will not be issued for more than two short-term rentals directly adjoining each other on a residentially zoned street. For the purposes of this subsection, "directly adjoining" means sharing a common boundary along a public street frontage, but does not include adjoining units in a condominium, townhouse development, in an apartment complex, or residential compound"*.

The revision continues to place a permit limit of 25% of units on a multi-family complex even when the owners, home owner association or condominium rules permit short-term rentals. The association would encourage the planning commission to consider eliminating this restriction, if short-term rentals are permitted by multi-family complexes.

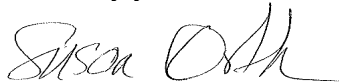
The revision adds two new requirements to non-residential properties:

- A permit limit of 25% of units on a multi-family complex located within 200-feet of a residential district, and
- A limit of 12 permits per building in a multi-family development.

The association looks forward to the discussions regarding these new restrictions on non-residential properties and is encouraging its members along with commercial property owners to provide their keen insights as the public legislative process moves forward.

The Santa Fe Association of REALTORS® appreciates efforts by city leaders to ensure this valuable, local green industry generating wealth for its citizens continues to be supported and encouraged while significantly enhancing the city's tourism and coffers, through much-needed tax collections.

Sincerely yours,



Susan Orth

President 2020

510 N Guadalupe, Santa Fe, NM 87501

CC: Mayor Alan Webber, Councilor Signe Lindell, Councilor Renee Villarreal, Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth, Councilor Michael Garcia, Councilor Roman Abeyta, Councilor Chris Rivera, Councilor JoAnne Vigil Coppler, Councilor Jamie Cassutt-Sanchez, Eli Isaacson – City Land Use Director, and Sally A. Paez – City Assistant Attorney

From: [BERKE, NOAH L.](#)
To: [ISAACSON, ELIAS S.](#); [PAEZ, SALLY A.](#)
Subject: Fwd: Air BnB
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 3:38:28 PM

Thanks!

Noah Berke, AICP, CFM
Planner Manager
Land Use Department
(505) 955-6647
(505) 490-5930

From: Natalie Bovis <natalie@theliquidmuse.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 3:03:39 PM
To: Land Use Public Comment <landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov>
Cc: getinvolved@airbnb.com <getinvolved@airbnb.com>
Subject: Air BnB

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.

Hello Santa Fe governance,

I grew up in this town, and I'm a local business owner. I also make extra money (pre pandemic) renting out my guest room to tourists via Air bnB.

I have a SuperHost rating, which means that visitors to Santa Fe have a wonderful experience "living like a local" in my home. I am a great ambassador for Santa Fe because I have lots of recommendations for activities, restaurants, etc. I help to build Santa Fe's tourism economy by providing an affordable option for people who otherwise might not be able to afford a hotel, and would take their tourism dollars elsewhere.

I am sharing my desire to maintain the ability to host people in my own home, as should be my right. I do not think there should be limits as to how many times per 7 days it is rented. Some people only stay a day or two, and during the summer I have multiple visitors who are passing through town.

Santa Fe already is not terribly business-friendly... to the point that I have considered moving my small business to Albuquerque. It is really important that Santa Fe considers small business owners - including side cash from Air BnB - in its planning... or you will lose more homegrown locals, like myself, to more progressive cities which flow with the times... and having the option of home stays through Air BnB, or similar platforms, is the way of the future.

Respectfully,

Natalie Bovis
Founder, The Liquid Muse LLC
Co-Founder, OM Liqueurs
Founder, TACO WARS / NM Cocktail & Culinary Festival

Sent from my device, please excuse random typos and bizarre autocorrect

October 14, 2020

Dear Planning Commission:

Let me outline my concerns globally and then in detail, about this whole process.

1. Stakeholder engagement: There has been extremely poor citizen engagement related to this initiative. I am a stakeholder as a 34 year resident deeply committed to our neighborhoods and culture. I am also a small business owner and an owner of 3 Airbnb's in a commercial building which I put in in order to pay off my debt and hopefully have a retirement one day. I was NEVER notified by the City that the code that affects me and the long term value of my Airbnb business was being changed. Why?

2. Enforcement and revenue: Instead of focusing on a new regulation, why hasn't the City focused on enforcement and closing the loop on the illegal short term rentals? Allowing illegal Airbnbs has cost the City over ten millions dollars, as well as leaving potential safety and neighborhood equity issues. I believe that the City had engaged a contractor to assess this problem and then did nothing to address it. Why is that?

THIS ISSUE IS FAR MORE IMMEDIATE AND URGENT then all the man hours spent on a new code, especially given the fact the Airbnb has been greatly depressed during this pandemic. This is a major betrayal of public trust and fiduciary responsibility. Why is there such a profound disconnection between economy and policy priorities? How could the governing body have let the above happened? Why take all the effort to create new regulations that the huge number of illegal short-term rentals will just ignore? Literally millions of dollars have been lost and continue to be lost because of a lack of follow up.

3. What is the goal of the changes to the short-term rental code and where is the data to show that these changes could result in the desired outcomes? Can anyone assure the public that, given that the code has no economic analysis based upon actual Airbnbs, that illegal short-term rentals have skewed the formation of the current code?

In order to ensure that policy results in desired outcomes, we need to state the goals, understand the data and assumptions and have clear forecasts. It seems that there are incorrect assumptions being made and then policy developed around these incorrect assumptions. This is a waste of valuable City resources and poor governing. For example, at a previous planning meeting, **the Land Use Director, in addition to admitting that there has been no economic analysis, said at a previous planning meeting that Airbnb's were impacting affordable long-term rentals. At that meeting, the Director of Affordable Housing, Alexandra Ladd said that the impact of Airbnbs on affordable rentals is negligible.** So, Land Use is driving policy based upon no false assumptions and no economic data.

Shouldn't City staff have clear understanding of our current zeitgeist and on that basis make presentations of goals, assumptions and presentation of data to support changes to the City code?

Data that seems critical to appropriately design and support code changes include: How many Airbnb's are owned by property management companies? How many are individual citizens are using Airbnb to pay for their homes vs or possibly save for retirement? What is the economic impact of Airbnb small businesses on the grassroots of our local economy, verses downtown hotels which exports all their profits outside of our community? Where are Airbnb's located in the city? Wouldn't a visual map of illegal and legal Airbnb's be helpful to the Counsel when considering policy?

Given that Airbnb numbers have not climbed much in the last two years, it's valid to ask that, if there were no short-term illegal rentals, would the current code even need to be modified?

I think we need to have a map to understand where Airbnbs are impacting neighborhoods and then we should show the map with an estimate of the impact of the new regulations. We should drill down and see where in these neighborhoods the complaints have been. Are there just a few people making a lot of noise or is there a systemic problem. We don't know. No. Economic. Data. We must understand the goals and have data to evaluate the likely outcomes.

4. Other questions: The new plan calls for a 75-foot space between locations. Commissioner Faulkner raised this issue particularly and it was skirted by the Land Use Director. He said it would be too difficult. Why should down town, where the vast majority of Airbnb's are rented, be treated the same as Tierra Contenta where someone is obviously trying to make a bit more money to survive our high housing market? Why can't land use have different rules for different zones that might help a few people make a bit of extra money and have the tax advantages of running a small business?

Also, the 7-day rule is completely anti-small business. It seems to be written by our hotel lobby, which has tens of thousands of rooms, vs Airbnb which currently has about 800 permits. Why does the permit favor these hotels and large corps instead of the small grass roots businesses?

It is poor governance for the City to add regulations when they are not enforcing existing regulations, to change City code without engaging stakeholders and without clearly stated goals and data to support the projection that the code changes will meet code. I implore the City to first tackle the problem of illegal short term rentals, gather and publish data and make sound decisions about policy that would meet City goals.

Sincerely,

Marc Choyt

From: [BERKE, NOAH L.](#)
To: [Teri Hackler](#); [PAEZ, SALLY A.](#)
Subject: RE: Vacation Rentals
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020 12:25:58 PM

The public comment had closed on Monday. You can speak at tonight's Zoom meeting by looking at the City of Santa Fe's website and clicking on the link to Weekly Meetings then Planning Commission.

Noah Berke, AICP, CFM
Planner Manager
City of Santa Fe Land Use Department
Office: (505) 955-6647
Cell or Text: (505) 490-5930
Email: nlberke@santafenm.gov

[Click here for Zoning Code Information](#)

[Click here for Property Information](#)

<https://www.alltogethersantafe.org/>

From: Teri Hackler <terihackler@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 10:30 AM
To: Land Use Public Comment <landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov>
Subject: Vacation Rentals

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I am writing to say that if you limit vacation rentals to 1 per week that would greatly affect my income. Most of the people who stay with me stay 3 days, so I often have more than 1 in a week.

I appreciate your considering this.
Thank you very much,
Teri Hackler

From: [BERKE, NOAH L.](#)
To: [PAEZ, SALLY A.](#); [ISAACSON, ELIAS S.](#)
Subject: FW: Short term rentals
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 11:01:26 AM

Noah Berke, AICP, CFM
Planner Manager
City of Santa Fe Land Use Department
Office: (505) 955-6647
Cell or Text: (505) 490-5930
Email: nlberke@santafenm.gov

[Click here for Zoning Code Information](#)

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<https://www.alltogethersantafe.org/>

From: kitty moss <moss.kitty@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 10:59 AM
To: Land Use Public Comment <landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov>
Subject: Short term rentals

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I am writing to you as an Airbnb host who rents 8 miles from the Plaza in a rural area. If Hosts are limited to one rental in a seven day period it will effectively destroy the market for short term rentals. This is because short term renters rely on seasonal rentals which are typically 1-3 days at a time. Airbnb has gone to great lengths to assure that properties are sanitized properly between rentals. This is not a time to discourage what are essentially small business owners in favor of large institutional hotel owners. Thank you for your consideration. Katherine Moss

From: [BERKE, NOAH L.](#)
To: [PAEZ, SALLY A.](#); [ISAACSON, ELIAS S.](#)
Subject: FW: October 15 Planning Commission Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 2:38:07 PM

Noah Berke, AICP, CFM
Planner Manager
City of Santa Fe Land Use Department
Office: (505) 955-6647
Cell or Text: (505) 490-5930
Email: nlberke@santafenm.gov

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<https://www.alltogethersantafe.org/>

From: elisenoble@post.harvard.edu <elisenoble@post.harvard.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Mayors Office <mayor@santafenm.gov>; VILLARREAL, RENEE D. <rdvillarreal@santafenm.gov>; LINDELL, SIGNE I. <silindell@santafenm.gov>; ROMERO-WIRTH, CAROL <cmromero-wirth@santafenm.gov>; Land Use Public Comment <landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov>
Cc: GARCIA, MICHAEL J. <mjgarcia@santafenm.gov>; RIVERA, CHRISTOPHER M. <cmrivera@santafenm.gov>; ABEYTA, ROMAN R. <rrabeyta@santafenm.gov>; CASSUTT-SANCHEZ, JAMIE A. <jcsanchez@santafenm.gov>; COPPLER, JOANNE V. <jvcoppler@santafenm.gov>
Subject: October 15 Planning Commission Meeting

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.

Dear Mayor Webber and City Councilors:

Below are my comments for the upcoming meeting about short-term rentals. I wanted you to have a chance to consider them before the meeting and unfortunately missed the deadline for submission via Noah Berke. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Elise Noble
2255 Old Arroyo Chamisa Road
505-699-7801

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The draft **Short-term Rental Ordinance** raises some concerns.

In our 42 plus years in our home, we have experienced a marked decrease in the water we can draw from our well. Despite taking great care not to use too much at any one time, we have often run out of water. (We are not connected to City or to any other water supply source, and have added water storage tanks to help our supply problems.)

The Ordinance's **Purpose and Intent** makes clear that it intends (page 5)

**to ensure that the operation of *short-term rental units* does not disrupt the character of the *city's* residential neighborhoods or affect the quality of life of neighboring residents.**

However, nothing in the Ordinance addresses the issue of water quantity or water quality.

**1. Water Quantity:** Short term rentals add to use of water from our common water table, not only increasing showers and toilet flushes, but also adding loads of laundry for guests' sheets and towels. A neighbor's short-term rental significantly adversely affects our quality of life by decreasing our already diminished water supply.

**2. Water Quality:** A rise in water use increases the volume of toilet, shower, and laundry water that goes into a septic field. A septic installer next door to us began installing a leach field too close to our well. The installer grudgingly moved the leach field a few feet, barely outside the 100 foot legally required setback from our well.

**The Ordinance needs to address issues of water quantity and water quality in areas served by wells and septics, issues that greatly affect quality of life.**

**3. Occupancy:** Another matter of concern is on page 10 of the proposed Ordinance:

**The total number of [persons]*guests* that may occupy [the]a *short-term rental unit* is twice the number of bedrooms[;].**

If an owner with four bedrooms lives in the house with a significant other, eight guests are allowed, bringing the occupancy to ten. With three children also at home, the permitted occupancy rises to thirteen.

**Restoring the word persons where guests is now proposed would correct this problem.**

**4. Notice.** Last, the **Required Notice for Short-term**

**Rental *Permits*** (page 15) includes no provision for those who receive Notice to raise concerns or objections.

**I hope this omission will be corrected.**

**From:** [BERKE, NOAH L.](#)  
**To:** [ISAACSON, ELIAS S.](#); [PAEZ, SALLY A.](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Short-Term Rental Restrictions  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 11:06:57 AM

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Noah Berke, AICP, CFM  
Planner Manager  
City of Santa Fe Land Use Department  
Office: (505) 955-6647  
Cell or Text: (505) 490-5930  
Email: [nlberke@santafenm.gov](mailto:nlberke@santafenm.gov)

[Click here for Zoning Code Information](#)

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**From:** Sandra Noe <sandmnoe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 10:42 AM  
**To:** Land Use Public Comment <landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov>  
**Subject:** Short-Term Rental Restrictions

**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.

**Submitted for consideration at the Thursday, October 15, 2020 Santa Fe Planning Commission meeting regarding regulations on short-term rentals.**

Dear Commissioners,

Though I understand the desire to reduce traffic and unforeseen problems by limiting short-term rentals to one rental per 7-day period, I think it would behoove the Commission to consider that stipulation dependent on the location of the short-term rental.

My husband and I own a condominium at Fort Marcy condominiums, otherwise known as Fort Marcy Hotel Suites. The property is run as a hotel, renting individual condominiums short-term. There are a number of large parking lots on the property which reduce street parking.

We could have Fort Marcy Hotel Suites manage our property and have it booked as much as possible; however, it is not cost-effective for us to do so—Fort Marcy takes a 50% cut of proceeds. We pay our State taxes and Lodgers' Tax, contributing to a healthy local economy as do hotels and motels, so why restrict our ability to have a viable business?

Related to the desire to have a viable business, why can hotels have multiple properties but not

individual short-term owners? The guests hosted in short-term rentals just as readily spend money locally, visiting restaurants, shops, museums, etc., and contribute to the welfare of our economy. Restricting short-term rental ownership shows a limited understanding of the benefits of these properties in Santa Fe.

From our experience and communication with our guests, we know that our short-term rental will not reduce hotel and motel business. We have had guests who travel with family or friends. Many of their travel companions prefer hotels to short-term rentals, so I believe the thought that hotels will suffer is not accurate.

To summarize, please reconsider rental restrictions in a 7-day period based on location. And, please do not limit the number of short-term rentals an individual can operate.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Noe  
24 Timberwick Rd  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
505-920-3055

**From:** [Leroy Pacheco](#)  
**To:** [PAEZ, SALLY A.](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Consideration of Bill No. 2020-\_\_: An Ordinance Amending Section 14-6.2 SFCC 1987  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:39:46 AM

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Hi Sally,

I meant to copy you on this email.

Thank you,

Leroy N. Pacheco

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Leroy Pacheco <leroypacheco@me.com>  
**Date:** October 15, 2020 at 9:36:48 AM MDT  
**To:** "BERKE, NOAH L." <nlberke@santafenm.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Consideration of Bill No. 2020-\_\_: An Ordinance Amending Section 14-6.2 SFCC 1987

Hi Noah,

Thanks for your email. Unfortunately I am unable to attend tonight's meeting. Will there be a public hearing component at tonight's meeting? If so, I noticed that on page 8 of the June 18, 2020 Planning Commission meeting, the city attorney (copied here) submitted written comments she had received after that meeting's deadline, into the public record. Is that a possibility with respect to my email below?

Thank you,  
Leroy

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 15, 2020, at 6:55 AM, BERKE, NOAH L.  
<nlberke@santafenm.gov> wrote:

Hi Leroy,

Public comment closed on Monday so we cannot forward this to commissioners. I would encourage you to attend the public meeting tonight (the link is on the City's website) and speak. Thanks

Noah Berke, AICP, CFM  
Planner Manager  
City of Santa Fe Land Use Department  
Office: (505) 955-6647  
Cell or Text: (505) 490-5930  
Email: [nlberke@santafenm.gov](mailto:nlberke@santafenm.gov)

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<https://www.alltogethersantafe.org/>

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**From:** Leroy Pacheco <leroypacheco@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 10:20 PM  
**To:** Land Use Public Comment <landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov>  
**Subject:** Consideration of Bill No. 2020-\_\_: An Ordinance Amending Section 14-6.2 SFCC 1987

**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.

Dear Commissioners:

I recently became aware of the city's consideration of this proposed ordinance amendment regarding short term rentals. I understand and support the city's desire to protect the quality of its residential neighborhoods, which I believe is a shared value by those who visit our beautiful city and choose to stay in a private residence rather than a hotel. I am rather new to hosting visitors and do enjoy providing a more unique experience to those who prefer to visit Santa Fe in this way. As a licensed host, I have had about 6 months experience as a host pre-pandemic, and about as much time acting as a host through the current pandemic.

In this short time, the natural market forces have dramatically changed the character of who currently visits Santa Fe. It is unclear what a post pandemic world will look like with respect to tourism. The rich touristic opportunities (Folk Art, Spanish and Indian Markets, Santa Fe Opera, Balloon Fiesta) of the past, were dramatically halted in 2020 by the pandemic and disrupted the state and city's tourist economies. The current political division and

recent vandalism of the historic Civil War Monument on the plaza have added to a climate of angst in the city and further raised uncertainty for the future.

I question whether some elements of this proposed ordinance will further impinge on our city and state's ability to economically recover. Specifically the intrusion of the ordinance on the length of stay per 7 day period, and the proximity rule of no new permits within 50-feet of existing permits should be more fully and perhaps separately vetted with a thorough analysis of its compliance with federal private property law. I suggest these articles be excised from the current language in the interest of prudence as that analysis is done and the other more perfunctory articles move forward.

I also call into question the number of new permits being limited to 1,000. I have not seen the market data that would support this number, which in my uninformed opinion seems high and something that would better be left to market forces. The same goes for length of stay limitations previously cited, and which the current market forces are moving toward anyway, with rentals now going in the direction of longer stays for remote workers.

I also highlight that the Financial Impact Report (FIR) indicates negligible economic impact to the city, which suggests to me that observation for compliance and enforcement by city forces will not exceed the city's current efforts. It would be interesting to understand this proposed law in light of the most recently available short term tax collections, so that the council and others may better understand what market forces have done to the STR market in the short term and comparing results for both pre-pandemic, and in the current situation.

Thank you for consideration of these thoughts.

Leroy N. Pacheco

Sent from my iPad



October 14, 2020

Santa Fe Planning Commission  
200 Lincoln Avenue  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

On behalf of Airbnb, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the City of Santa Fe's draft amendments to its Short-Term Rental (STR) Ordinance. We know that enacting balanced regulations that protect neighborhoods while preserving the benefits that STRs provide to the city and community is crucial.

We appreciate the city's recent changes to its draft amendments which clarify permit eligibility and host platform requirements. However, we remain concerned by a few provisions that would introduce new obstacles to hosting, with adverse impacts on the local tourism economy. We write to suggest revisions that we believe would improve the City's ability to implement balanced and effective STR regulations.

### **One Rental Per Seven-Day Period**

We appreciate that the City allows STRs in a range of building types across residential and non-residential zones to help maximize their economic benefits. However, we are concerned that the intention of the "one rental per seven-day period" limitation is unclear, and may have negative consequences. Not only would this limit the overall amount of Lodgers' tax revenues generated for the city, but it would also harm local residents. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on the travel industry, including STR hosts and small businesses who rely on economic activity generated by tourism in their communities. Restricting rentals to one-per-week would reduce their flexibility to host during peak seasons. It particularly hurts more intermittent hosts who travel for one month, for example; this restriction will severely limit their ability to have multiple guests while they are out of town, limiting their ability to generate extra revenue for themselves. Moreover, the one day rental per seven day period is also incredibly complex to enforce given the likelihood that hosts may just jump back and forth between platforms and creates a system inherently designed to fail. We urge the City to remove this provision from the draft amendments, thereby allowing significant more flexibility to operators and creating less administrative burden for compliance staff.

**One Permit Per Person**

We encourage the City against limiting the number of permits per person. Taken alongside other provisions in the draft amendments - including the 1000 citywide permit cap, 50-foot separation requirement, and one rental per seven day period - this cap is overly restrictive and redundant. Santa Fe's economy relies on tourism, and vacation rentals have long been part of the lodging landscape. We ask the City to consider removing this provision, which could have negative future impacts on the hospitality industry, particularly as permits expire and operators retire. This would be consistent with the intent of the ordinance's grandfathering provision, make the supply more sustainable over time, and ensure the ability of Santa Fe residents to maintain an important economic lifeline.

\* \* \*

Thank you for the consideration of all of the issues that we have raised regarding the proposed amendments. We would like to reiterate our willingness to collaborate with the City in developing a fair, balanced STR regulatory framework, and our comments here are offered in that spirit. We are happy to address any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Patel', with a stylized, cursive script.

Toral Patel  
Public Policy, Airbnb

**From:** [BERKE, NOAH L.](#)  
**To:** [PAEZ, SALLY A.](#); [ISAACSON, ELIAS S.](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd:  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 8:43:47 PM

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Thanks!

Noah Berke, AICP, CFM  
Planner Manager  
Land Use Department  
(505) 955-6647  
(505) 490-5930

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**From:** Amy Rose <amybeerose@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 8:26:09 PM  
**To:** Land Use Public Comment <landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov>  
**Subject:**

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.

Limiting one rental per 7 day period, is basically cutting my business income by 2 thirds.  
What is the logic of this proposed ordinance?

Limiting 1 permit per person, destroys the basic business of vacation rentals.  
Are these ordinances aimed at Gutting individuals/property owners using short term rental platforms?

I am totally bewildered.

**From:** [BERKE, NOAH L.](#)  
**To:** [ISAACSON, ELIAS S.](#); [PAEZ, SALLY A.](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: short term rental permit  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 5:44:57 PM

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Thanks!

Noah Berke, AICP, CFM  
Planner Manager  
Land Use Department  
(505) 955-6647  
(505) 490-5930

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**From:** kim schilling <tthferry@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 5:12:39 PM  
**To:** Land Use Public Comment <landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov>  
**Subject:** short term rental permit

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.

A couple of pointers:

Many of us do this in order to maintain, improve and afford our house.

I assume the reason you are doing this is because you have accepted too many permits.

One a week? What would the purpose of that be. Many people prefer shorter rentals... Airbnb is good for Santa Fe... most of the people that I get are looking for a place that they are able to be out in the garden, perhaps make their own breakfast in a quiet area cleaned by conscientious cleaners. If they could not stay in an affordable house they would not come, they would chose another area. Not everyone wants to stay in a hotel especially during covid times.

**From:** [BERKE, NOAH L.](#)  
**To:** [PAEZ, SALLY A.](#); [ISAACSON, ELIAS S.](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Changes to City Short Term Rental Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 8:09:30 AM

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Noah Berke, AICP, CFM  
Planner Manager  
City of Santa Fe Land Use Department  
Office: (505) 955-6647  
Cell or Text: (505) 490-5930  
Email: [nlberke@santafenm.gov](mailto:nlberke@santafenm.gov)

[Click here for Zoning Code Information](#)

[Click here for Property Information](#)

<https://www.alltogethersantafe.org/>

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**From:** BONNIE SMITH <[bonnie.b.smith@comcast.net](mailto:bonnie.b.smith@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 7:19 PM  
**To:** Land Use Public Comment <[landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov](mailto:landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Changes to City Short Term Rental Ordinance

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To: Santa Fe City Planning Commission

Date: 10/14/20

Subject: City Short Term Rental Ordinance

We are concerned that proposed changes to short term rental ordinances seek to eliminate or severely cripple short term rentals.

My wife and I own one house in the city currently licensed by the city as a short term rental under my wife's name. We bought the house 28 years ago anticipated occupying it as our retirement home. We rented it as a long term rental (greater than one year lease) for 26 years. We changed our retirement plans and eventually retired in Colorado and retained the house as an investment (under an LLC) and occasionally as a second home.

At the outset, we wish to inform you that our families have been legal New Mexico residents for three and four generations. In one case, prior to New Mexico becoming a state.

Our experience has been that our property has occasionally been significantly damaged by long term renters. Our short term renters have been much more considerate of us and our neighbors. We think this is generally the case.

We have the following comments regarding your current considerations:

A seven day minimum rental will significantly eliminate a segment of our market when normal travel resumes. Perhaps as much as 30% to 60% less.

The current pandemic has significantly distorted the market toward longer term rentals as some people escape high density cities. When travel increases the market will naturally move to shorter term.

We wish to operate with 3 day minimum (we like longer rentals but believe a significant part of the market is 3 day). From a practical standpoint, a motel or hotel can operate with a 2 to 4 hour room turn around. A short term house rental can operate with a 4 to 8 hour turn around due to its complexity and size.

Two short rentals on one property (house and casita) is practical and workable in our opinion. Although not our situation, we can foresee problems with restrictions on developments with condos where owners wish to occasionally use the property and short term rent otherwise.

We think the current city ordinances regarding short term rentals are appropriate. Few if any changes are needed.

HOA and neighborhood associations will take care of regulations beyond city ordinance for short term rentals.

We have found that Airbnb management strategy is very effective at helping to manage use of short term rentals.

Thank you for your attention.

Another Issue: Repair of damage done by violence, intimidation and lawless actions by recent violent groups in plaza area.

How is the Planning Commission going to address the damage done to the plaza and Indian restaurant by the violence in the recent weeks? We demand **restoration**, not replacement of historical monuments and structures.

**What legislation did not accomplish, violence and lawlessness accomplished while city government, city management and law enforcement willfully looked away!**

Bonieta Smith and Marvin Smith

**From:** [BERKE, NOAH L.](#)  
**To:** [PAEZ, SALLY A.](#); [ISAACSON, ELIAS S.](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on Consideration of Bill No. 2020-\_\_ re: Short-Term Rental Permits  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 5:34:12 PM

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Noah Berke, AICP, CFM  
Planner Manager  
City of Santa Fe Land Use Department  
Office: (505) 955-6647  
Cell or Text: (505) 490-5930  
Email: [nlberke@santafenm.gov](mailto:nlberke@santafenm.gov)

[Click here for Zoning Code Information](#)

[Click here for Property Information](#)

<https://www.alltogethersantafe.org/>

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**From:** Israel Sushman <[isushman@isushman.com](mailto:isushman@isushman.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 3:21 PM  
**To:** Land Use Public Comment <[landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov](mailto:landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comment on Consideration of Bill No. 2020-\_\_ re: Short-Term Rental Permits

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Using city ordinances to throttle a powerful and natural market shift to integrating short term stays into the travel industry and offered by individual families is akin to supporting the horse-shoeing industry by banning auto repair shops! The market has already moved on and organizations such as Booking.com offer a blended approach, offering a choice of kinds of experience: individual homes, hotels, or other experiences. What should and could happen is that the housing markets should be protected by not allowing wholesale conversion of real estate to Airbnb and VRBO properties. In Los Angeles, Airbnb has been limited to units that are the primary residence of the owners. This reflects the true original vision of Airbnb. Limiting the number of stays a week a host can offer seems unenforceable to me.

Additionally, in an era in which retired people no longer benefit from pensions, AirBnB is a solution for seniors who have never been able to save enough for retirement due to market crashes, the volatility of the job market, real estate losses, and the COVID-19 pandemic. In my case, I was diagnosed with Parkinsons ten years ago and had to leave a lucrative corporate job early. Income from Airbnb for us is under \$2,000, and is essential income for my husband and me, without which we would need to turn to state resources to help us survive. Since we live on the property and monitor all activity of our guests, we don't believe having people stay in our home is a detriment

to our Santa Fe community. It is also something we really enjoy, meeting all sorts of interesting people. We believe what we offer is a service that is valuable to the community.

Israel Sushman

Nancy J. Murray

Santa Fe, NM

505.780.8839

[isushman@gmail.com](mailto:isushman@gmail.com)

[nancyjanemurray@gmail.com](mailto:nancyjanemurray@gmail.com)

**From:** [BERKE, NOAH L.](#)  
**To:** [ISAACSON, ELIAS S.](#); [PAEZ, SALLY A.](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed Changes to STR Ordinance - Public Comment for Meeting of October 15th  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 8:37:21 AM

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Thanks!

Noah Berke, AICP, CFM  
Planner Manager  
Land Use Department  
(505) 955-6647  
(505) 490-5930

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**From:** Richard A Woodruff <richardwoodruff@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 8:31:09 AM  
**To:** LINDELL, SIGNE I. <silindell@santafenm.gov>; VILLARREAL, RENEE D. <rdvillarreal@santafenm.gov>; GARCIA, MICHAEL J. <mjgarcia@santafenm.gov>; ROMERO-WIRTH, CAROL <romero-wirth@santafenm.gov>; RIVERA, CHRISTOPHER M. <cmrivera@santafenm.gov>; ABEYTA, ROMAN R. <rabeysa@santafenm.gov>; CASSUTT-SANCHEZ, JAMIE A. <jcsanchez@santafenm.gov>; COPPLER, JOANNE V. <jvcoppler@santafenm.gov>; Land Use Public Comment <landusepubliccomment@santafenm.gov>  
**Cc:** Kathy Komoll <kkomoll@newmexicohospitality.org>; Paco Arguello <paco@sfar.com>; Fran Maier <franvacationrental@gmail.com>; Dana Lubner <dana@rentresponsibly.org>; David Krauss <david@rentresponsibly.org>; Alexa Nota <alexa@rentresponsibly.org>  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes to STR Ordinance - Public Comment for Meeting of October 15th

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Good morning All,

I am taking this opportunity to provide further comment to the Land Use Office regarding the proposed changes to the STR Ordinance to be discussed at the meeting of October 15<sup>th</sup>.

To Follow:

It is assumed by the council (reference article below) that the 1600 (a few less as I believe it is around 1450) rentals listed on Airbnb and VRBO demonstrate that there are scofflaws to the existing ordinance. Although that is likely true to a limited extent, the council fails to take the following into consideration:

1. Not all rentals listed on Airbnb and VRBO require a permit; for two reasons:
  - a. Some are longer term rentals exclusively (more than 30 days), and therefore do not require permits
  - b. Some of the listing are not within the City limits, rather in Santa Fe County, and therefore do not require a City permit
2. Taxes, for all listings, are automatically collected and remitted to the State and

the City directly by VRBO. Taxes do not pass through the listing. This has been the case since mid-2019. Also, taxes are withheld for the longer-term rentals although taxes should not be applied. VRBO and Airbnb does not give a listing permission to exclude the taxes.

3. Some listings are duplicates both on the various listing engines as well as on each listing engine. Some have listed homes twice for marketing purposes.

Our conclusion should be: An impact study should be performed of the listings on VRBO/Airbnb to determine the actual compliance taking into account the points above. I am certain they will determine that the size of the problem is rather small. Once the problem is isolated, the City can pursue the violators.

All the best,  
Richard

## **Santa Fe city councilor says many short-term rentals operating illegally**

by: [Stephanie Chavez](#)

**Posted: Oct 12, 2020 / 05:41 AM MDT / Updated: Oct 12, 2020 / 05:43 AM MDT**

[SANTA FE, N.M.](#) (KRQE) – The City of Santa Fe is cracking down on short-term rentals, saying hundreds of them are not permitted and could face fines. There are also still a couple hundred permits up for grabs.

[Santa Fe is losing \\$3.8 million annually to short term rentals](#), according to a survey done in 2019. “They’re just not paying it when people come and rent, they’re just not paying it,” says City Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth.

Romero-Wirth says that’s why the city recently capped the number of short-term rental permits at 1,000. Still, she says, there are about 1,600 of these rentals, through websites like Airbnb, operating across the city.

She says about half of them are not following the city’s ordinance, requiring them to register the rental and get a permit. “There’s something like 800 that are permitted,” she says.

Romero-Wirth is supportive of these rentals but wants them to come into compliance, saying the lost revenue isn’t the only problem they’re causing.

“That’s had a negative impact on the neighborhoods, the neighbors are feeling like the character of the neighborhood doesn’t feel the same,”

Romero-Wirth says.

The city planning commission this week will hear a proposed amendment to the current ordinance that would have code enforcement officers cracking down on people who aren’t permitted and inform them about the remaining 200 permits that are available.

“And then once we hit that 1,000 level cap, those houses that can’t get

permits maybe will become longterm rentals [that] help with our housing shortage,” Romero-Wirth says. According to the councilor, because of the budget deficit, they will not be hiring any more enforcement officers for this extra enforcement, if this amendment passes.