# REGULATING SHORT TERM RENTALS (OR NOT)

Aaron Qualls Sean Holm Jerry Mason John Spuhler



#### THE SHARING ECONOMY

"the **peer-to-peer** based activity of obtaining, giving, or sharing access to good and services".

Alternative names for this phenomenon include peer-to-peer economy, gig economy, platform economy, access economy, and collaborative consumption.

—National League of Cities / Brookings Institute

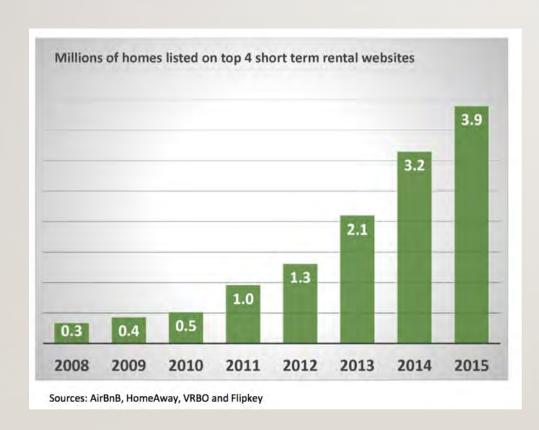
"Today is the slowest rate of change we will ever experience."

—Jonathan Macdonald

#### GLOBAL VACTION RENTAL MARKET



#### GLOBAL VACTION RENTAL MARKET



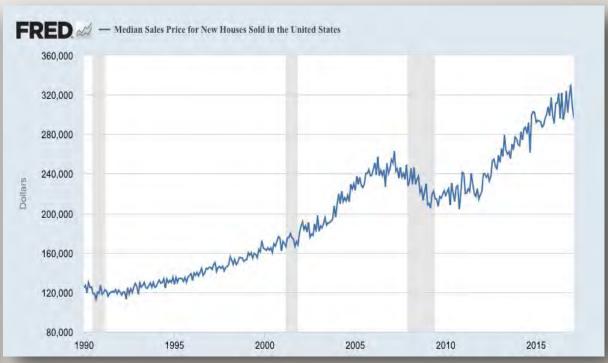
# THE GROWTH OF THE URBAN ACCOMMODATION

The growth of urban private accommodations is driving change in destination mix, as cities continue to emerge as hotspots for rentals.

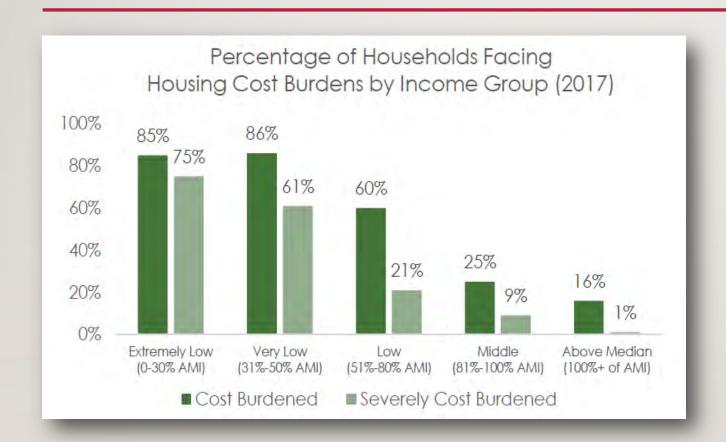


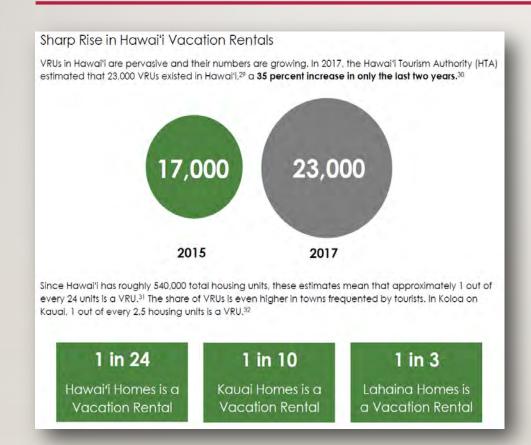
## **CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

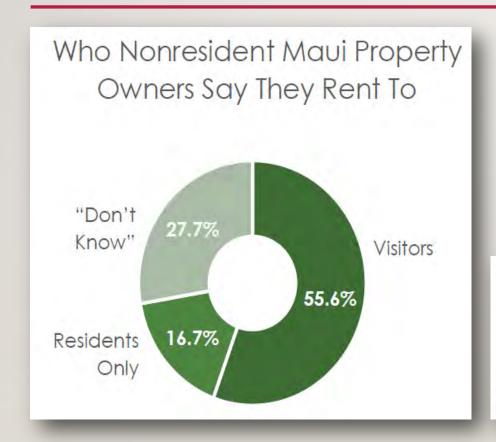












3.5x

Amount of revenue an average Airbnb unit can generate compared to a long-term rental

52%

At minimum, 52% of VRUs are owned by nonresidents

#### CHALLENGE - NEIGHBORHOOD INTEGRITY



#### CHALLENGE - NEIGHBORHOOD INTEGRITY





# CHALLENGE - LEVEL PLAYING FIELD (TAXES)

#### Short-Term Lodging (tax.idaho.gov/lodging)

Anyone who provides temporary lodging (30 days or less) for a fee in Idaho is responsible for collecting and submitting the following Idaho taxes:

- 6% Sales tax
- 2% Travel and convention tax
- Any Local Option Tax approved by voters
- Greater Boise Auditorium District tax

#### CHALLENGE - LEVEL PLAYING FIELD (TAXES)

# <u>Some</u> of the consequences when Short Term Rentals are not registered and are not remitting their required taxes:

- Sales taxes are foregone (Unfair burden to those that pay)
- Schools do not receive their fair funding
- "Homeowner's Exemption" for property tax relief maliciously obtained in some cases
- Results in lowest cost stay (more bookings), or even worse;
   taxes collected go into pocket of STR provider

#### CHALLENGE - FAIR & EQUITABLE ENFORCEMENT

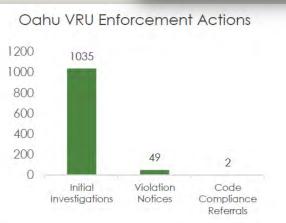
# Perception: (Billboard paid for by Air B-n-B)



#### Reality:

#### Current State of VRU Enforcement

Increased enforcement is essential to ensuring that the VRU industry in Hawai'i remains in check. Additionally, the burden for proving a violation should be reduced—enforcement agencies claim that advertising the unit as a VRU is not, on its own, sufficient proof it is being used as a VRU. On Oahu for example, from January through August of 2017, Honolulu's Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) conducted 1,035 VRU investigations. They issued 49 notices of violation, only two of which were referred to the Code Compliance Branch for civil fines.<sup>70</sup>



#### OPPORTUNITY – INCOME SOURCE FOR RESIDENTS

 Vacation rental income comprises about a quarter (24%) of the average owner's income



#### OPPORTUNITY - CONVIENIENCE & AFFORDABILIY

- Cook your own meals
- More space for your buck (at least for larger spaces particularly if unregulated)
- Often more amenities (i.e. parking)
- Instant Booking

#### OPPORTUNITY - EXPERIENCE

- Can help discover a place
- More personal experience



#### OPPORTUNITY – TAX REVENUE

• If captured.

#### RESORT CITY TAX FACT SHEET

Understanding Resort City Taxing Authority to Offset Demands on City of Sandpoint Residents



#### Resort City Tax Ballot Measure ELECTION: NOVEMBER 4TH, 2014

A 7% hotel/motel room occupancy tax on all short term (30 or fewer days) rental charges for hotel rooms, motel rooms, condominium units, tourist homes, bed and breakfast establishments, and similar facilities.

#### OPPORTUNITY - PROPERTY UPKEEP

- Profit motive may lead to better kept properties
- Reviews online are what drives success



#### WHAT DOES THE STATE OF IDAHO SAY?

## DEVELOPMENT OF STATUTORY PROPOSALS (2017)

#### House Bill 66

- Held in committee
- Would have established new chapter in title 55 (real property)
- Contained "perplexing" concepts

- House Bill 216 Created Idaho Code §67-6539
  - Advanced by real estate interests and Expedia
  - Prohibited outright prohibition of shortterm rentals in any jurisdiction
  - Allowed regulation to protect public health and safety
  - Declared use to be a residential in nature
  - Prohibits regulation of online marketplaces

# DEVELOPMENT OF STATUTORY PROPOSALS (2018)

#### House Bill 452

Semantic changes to Idaho
 Code §67-6539

## **IDAHO CODE §67-6539**

- 67-6539. Limitations on regulation of short-term rentals and vacation rentals.
- (I) Neither a county nor a city may enact or enforce any ordinance that has the express or practical effect of prohibiting short-term rentals or vacation rentals throughout the jurisdiction of such in the county or city. Notwithstanding the foregoing prohibition A county or city may implement such reasonable regulations as it deems necessary to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare in order to protect the integrity of residential neighborhoods in which short-term rentals or vacation rentals operate. A short-term rental or vacation rental shall be classified as a residential land use for zoning purposes subject to all zoning requirements applicable thereto.
- (2) Neither a county nor a city can regulate the operation of a short-term rental marketplace. (2018)

# COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

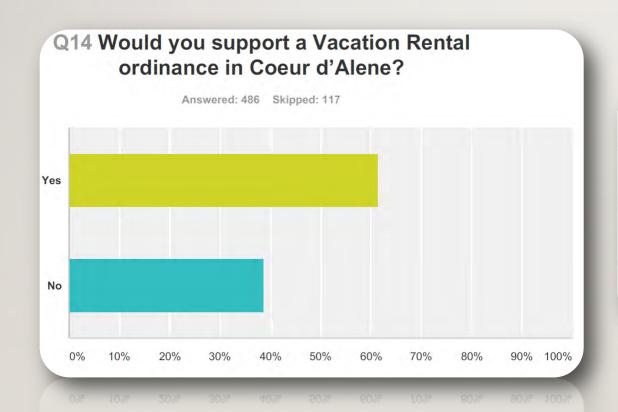


#### **GOALS**

- Maintain neighborhood character
- Track STR stocks (mapping)
- Follow macro/local VRBO trends
- Establish balance/fairness
- Create clear and reasonable rules



#### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	61.32%	298
No	38.68%	188
Total		486
Total		486

- Occupancy
- Parking
- Length of stay
- Exemption
- Management
- Advertising
- Enforcement



- Occupancy
- Parking
- Length of stay
- Exemption
- Management
- Advertising
- Enforcement

#### **17.02.055: DEFINITIONS VIII:**

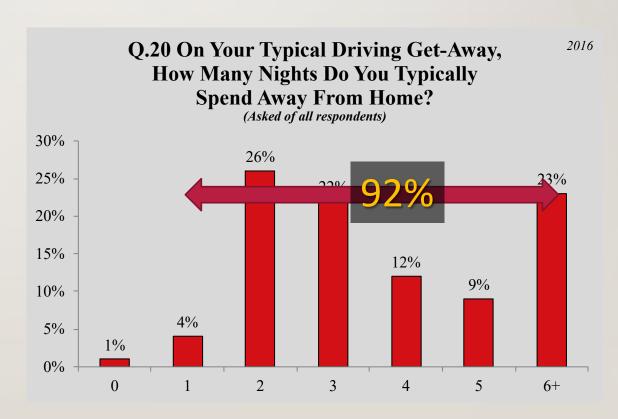
- B. "Family" unless otherwise specified by ordinance means any of the following:
  - 1. One or more persons who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption; or
  - 2. No more than four (4) persons who are unrelated by blood, marriage or adoption living together as a single housekeeping unit; or
  - 3. No more than a total combination of five (5) persons related and unrelated living together as a single housekeeping unit;

- Occupancy
- Parking
- Length of stay
- Exemption
- Management
- Advertising
- Enforcement



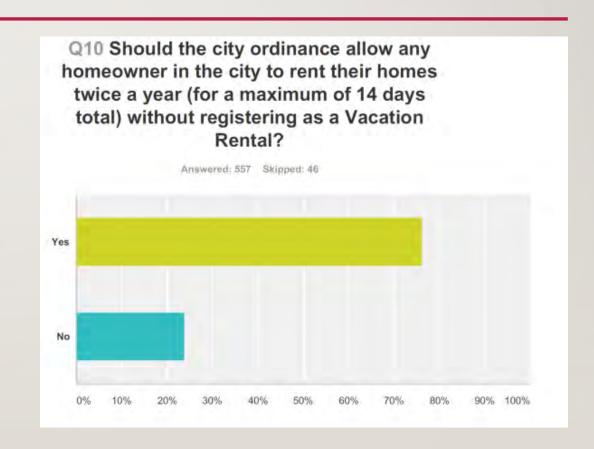
Photo: Google Maps/Street View

- Occupancy
- Parking
- Length of stay
- Exemption
- Management
- Advertising
- Enforcement



Robinson Research/Coeur d'Alene Convention and Visitor's Bureau

- Occupancy
- Parking
- Length of stay
- Exemption
- Management
- Advertising
- Enforcement



- Occupancy
- Parking
- Length of stay
- Exemption
- Management
- Advertising
- Enforcement

Any Residential Dwelling in the City may be rented without a permit for no more than fourteen (14) days per calendar year, where those fourteen (14) days are divided into no more than two (2) stays.

- Occupancy
- Parking
- Length of stay
- Exemption
- Management
- Advertising
- Enforcement

1 hour response time for owner/manager to deal with any (valid) neighbor complaints. This was designed to direct the first point of contact to the manager/renter to relieve burden from Police. If not resolved, Police will respond, and incident could be considered a violation.

## **KEY ISSUES**

- Occupancy
- Parking
- Length of stay
- Exemption
- Management
- Advertising
- Enforcement

All advertising for the Short-Term Rental shall include the <u>City</u> <u>permit number</u>. No signs shall be displayed on the property.

#### **KEY ISSUES**

- Occupancy
- Parking
- Length of stay
- Exemption
- Management
- Advertising
- Enforcement

Failure to comply with any of the standards of this Article, the City Clerk or his/her designee may revoke a permit and, in addition, may order that no new permit shall be issued for up to three (3) years.

#### **CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS**

- I. "Good Neighbor" Policy (Tri-fold)
- 2. Ordinance
- 3. Application:
  - Self-Inspection Document
  - Parking Plan
  - Escape Plan (Incl. gas, water, electric shutoffs)
  - Neighborhood Notice (Borrowed from Portland, OR)

www.cdaid.org/vacationrentals

# THE THREE PARTS I. "GOOD NEIGHBOR" POLICY (TRI-FOLD)



Common courtesy and respect go a

and improper parking are code

long way. Loud music, unruly parties,

violations. They will not be tolerated

and neighbors are encouraged to

Conduct yourself accordingly and

welcome to our world-class resort

community. You will love it here.

report violations to the police.

i.

Coeur d'Alene

710 E. Mullan Avenue Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

(208) 769-2300

www.cdaid.org/short-term



This good neighbor pamphlet contains important information regarding your short-term stay in Coeur d'Alene.

Please follow this guide to ensure your stay is enjoyable for everyone.





The maximum overnight occupancy on premises for short-term residential uses between 11p.m. and 6 a.m. is defined as a "family".

17.02.055: DEFINITIONS VIII:

- B. "Family" unless otherwise specified by ordinance means any of the following:
- One or more persons who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption; or
   No more than four (4) persons who are unrelated by blood, marriage or
- unrelated by blood, marriage or adoption living together as a single housekeeping unit; or 3. No more than a total combination of
- No more than a total combination of five (S) persons related and unrelated living together as a single housekeeping unit.

#### NOISE

Our neighborhoods are great places. We intend to keep them that way. Respect those around you and we'll all have the best vacation ever!

17.07.120: VIBRATION AND NOISE:

- B. In all districts, the use of property shall not create a noise level for residentially zoned property in excess of the following artierla, measured by an approved and properly calibrated decibel meter:

  1. Daytime level (7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.),
- Daytime level (7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.), sixty five (65) dB;
   Nighttime level, fifty five (55) dB.

#### sidewalk or neighbor's driveway.

PARKING

Coeur d'Alene is a dog friendly city. Dogs and people love it here! Be sure to check if your vacation rental allows pets if they are joining you.

Parking comes at a premium the closer you get to the lake. Private off-street

parking must be fully utilized prior to

parking on the streets. Never block the

Please leash & pick up after your pet.

# THE THREE PARTS 2. ORDINANCE

#### CHAPTER 17.08 SPECIAL/HAZARD AREA REGULATIONS

#### ARTICLE X SHORT-TERM RENTALS

17.08.1010: PURPOSE:

17.08.1030: PERMIT REQUIRED:

17.08.1040: STANDARDS: 17.08.1050: VIOLATIONS: PENALTIES:

Trobatoro. Trobations,

A. The purpose of this Article is to establish regulations for the use of Residential Dwellings as Short-Term Rental inventory in the City, ensure compliance with local performance standards, provide a means of contact for the Responsible Party of a Short-Term Rental, establish a Good Neighbor Policy for Occupants of Short-Term Rentals and their guests, and allow private property owners the right to fully and efficiently utilize their property without undoue regulation or interference.

B. Nothing in this Article shall be construed so as to nullify or override any lease agreements, or covenants, conditions, and restrictions applicable to the property that may prohibit or restrict its use for Short-Term Rental purposes.

#### 17.08.1020: DEFINITIONS:

- A. "Good Neighbor Policy" shall mean the list of general rules of conduct, best practices, and standards of respect prepared by the Planning Department and required to be provided to Occupants and their guests utilizing Short-Term Rentals within the City.
- B. "Occupant" shall mean the person or persons who contract with the Responsible Party for use of the Short-Term Rental.
- C. "Residential Dwelling" shall mean a single unit providing complete and independent living fieldlities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, selegue, eating, cooking, and sanitation. Tents, recreational vehicles, campers, and similar units not designed for permanent residential use are excluded from this definition.
- D. "Responsible Party" shall mean the owner of a Residential Dwelling being used as a Short-Term Rental, as well as any person designated by the owner who is responsible for compliance with this Article by an Occupant and any guests utilizing the Short-Term Rental. The Responsible Party shall provide for the maintenance of the property and ensure compliance by the Occupant and any guests with the provisions of this Article, or any other applicable law, rule, or regulation pertaining to the use and occupancy of a Short-Term Rental. The owner of the property shall not be relieved of responsibility or liability for noncompliance with the provisions.

\_\_\_\_

of this Article, or any other applicable law, rule, or regulation pertaining to the use and occupancy of a Short-Term Rental because of the designation of another Responsible Party. All Responsible Parties shall be at least twenty-one (21) years old.

- E. "Self-Inspection Checklist" shall mean the current form approved by the City for use with a Short-Term Rental application.
- F. "Short-Term Rental" shall mean a Residential Dwelling which is rented for a minimum of two (2) nights and a maximum of thirty (30) days, and which is sometimes referred to as a "vacation rental." This term does not include a Bed-and-Breakfast facility, an RV Park or campground, or a hotel or motel.

#### 17 08 1030 PERMIT REQUIRED

- A. An applicant for a Short-Term Rental permit must be the owner of the Residential Dwelling to be offered for rent. No person with less than a fee ownership interest may apply for a Short-Term Rental termit.
  - A Short-Term Rental permit is issued to the applicant and does not attach to the Residential Dwelling.
  - 2. A Short-Term Rental permit is non-transferable.
- B. Prior to offering a Short-Term Rental to the public, the owner of the Residential Dwelling shall complete an application on a form provided by the City and file it with the City Clerk or lins/her designee. The application shall include:
  - . The owner's legal name, date of birth, contact number, and both physical and nailing addresses:
  - If the Short-Term Rental is to be operated or managed by someone other than the
    owner, the name, date of birth, contact number, and both physical and mailing addresslor
    or a Responsible Party with day-to-day authority and/or control over the Short-Term
    Rental, together with a copy of a valid government-issued identification of any
    Responsible Party;
  - 3 The address of the Short-Term Rental: and
  - 4. The signatures of the owner and other Responsible Party, if any, agreeing and acknowledging that they are jointly responsible for the compliance by the Occupant and any guests with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the use and occupancy of the Short-Term Rental, and for any unreasonable noise, disturbances or disorderly conduct by the Occupant and/or guests while utilizing while on the property of the Contract of the Short-Term Rental, and for any unreasonable noise, disturbances or disorderly conduct by the Occupant and/or guests while utilizing while on the property of the Contract of the Short-Term Rental and Occupant and/or guests while utilizing while on the property of the Contract of the Short-Term Rental and Occupant and Occ
- C. If any information required by subsections  $\underline{B}(1)$  through (4) hereof changes, a Responsible Party shall promptly advise the City.

TERM RENTALS Pag

- D. At the time an application is filed with the City, a Responsible Party shall complete and file with the City the Self-Inspection Check list. A new Self-Inspection Checklist shall be completed and filed with the City each year thereafter during which the Short-Term Rental will be offered to the public.
- E. Short-Term Rentals are not a grandfathered use. All Short-Term Rentals in the City must have a permit to operate.
- F. Subject to § 17.08.1010(B), any Residential Dwelling in the City may be rented without a permit for no more than fourteen (14) days per calendar year, where those fourteen (14) days are divided into no more than two (2) stay.

#### 17.08.1040: STANDARDS:

- A. Accessory Dwelling Units.
  - For properties that contain an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), as defined by § 17.02.030(E) of this Code, neither the ADU nor the associated principal dwelling may be used as a Short-Term Rental.

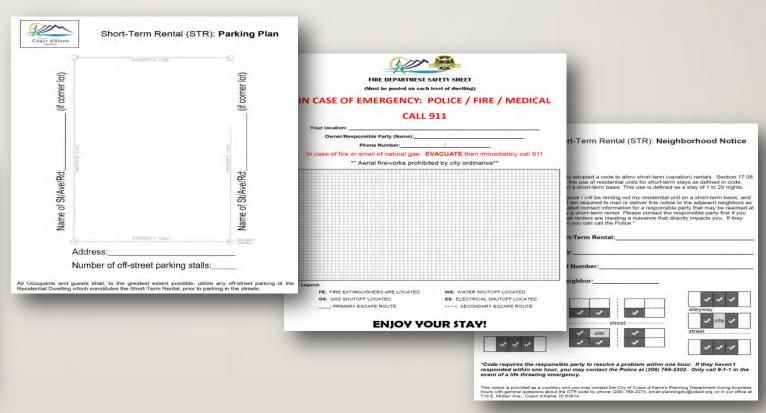
#### Duties of Responsible Party.

- A Responsible Party must be available twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week, for the purpose of responding within sixty (60) minutes to complaints regarding the condition of the Short-Term Rental or the conduct of the Occupant of the Short-Term Rental and/or their guests.
- A Responsible Party shall obtain the name, address, and contact number of each Occupant of a Short-Term Rental.
- A Responsible Party shall provide the information required in section 17.08.1040(B)(2) to the City at the City's request, if available.
- 4. A Responsible Party, upon notification that any Occupant or guest has created any unreasonable noise or disturbance, engaged in disorderly conduct, or committed a violation of any applicable law, rule or regulation pertaining to the use and occupancy of a Short-Term Rental, shall promptly respond in an appropriate manner within sixty (60) minutes and require an immediate halt to the conduct, and take such steps as may be uncessary to prevent a recurrence of such conduct. Failure of the Responsible Party to Occupant or guest in a Short-Term Rental in an appropriate manner within sixty (60) minutes shall constitute a violation of this Article.
- A Responsible Party shall provide written notice to all residents within one hundred (100) feet of a Residential Dwelling that it is being used, or will be used, as a

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

# THE THREE PARTS APPLICATION 3. ONLINE TO SAVE MONEY & TIME





#### **FINAL PRODUCT**

- Permit required for all vacation rentals
- Responsible party available 24/7
- Permit number on all advertisements
- Definition of "family" to determine occupancy
- I day stays allowed
- No exterior signage
- 2 week exemption from ordinance
- ADUs allowed as STRs (+1 parking stall required)

#### GRAIN OF SALT ADVICE...

- Public commenting: Is it a fair shake?
  - Paper, website, TV, social media, survey
- Unintended consequences
  - ADUs, Neighborhood notice, Halfway homes, etc.
- Work closely with other departments
  - I.T., processing, Code Enforcement, Fire, Building, etc.
- Sufficient resources for enforcement!
  - 1.5 FTEs for 53,000 citizens

# SANDPOINT, IDAHO



## SANDPOINT STR POLICY OBJECTIVES

- I. Ensure that Sandpoint's traditional neighborhoods—highly valued by residents—are not transformed exclusively into tourist areas to the detriment of long-term residents.
- 2. Minimize public safety risks and negative impacts to neighborhoods.
- 3. Provide permanent residents an equitable path to occasionally utilize their properties as short-term-rentals.
- 4. Ensure that the availability of dedicated short-term rental properties are balanced with the need for affordable long-term rental housing options.
- 5. Ensure that the City is able to collect resort city lodging taxes fairly and equitably.
- 6. Ensure that any resulting ordinance changes are enforceable so that a level playing field is maintained.
- 7. Ensure any resulting ordinance changes are in accord with Idaho House Bill 216, and House Bill 452.

#### SANDPOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

"Provide Sandpoint workers with affordable housing options near jobs, public transportation, and non-motorized transportation options."

"Sandpoint residents value their traditional neighborhoods, including the Downtown and areas such as Sixth Avenue. The community recognizes the need to preserve not just individual historic buildings, but the traditional scale and feeling of the city's original neighborhoods platted by Farmin."

"In recent times, Sandpoint's fortunes have spurred growth and investment in such a way as to compromise affordability. To combat this, residents have become more proactive in a role for themselves and for the City in promoting and encouraging a wide range of housing types, keeping pace with housing demand, and acting to improve other livability factors to bridge the distance between costs of living in Sandpoint with what residents earn."

#### 2013 ORDINANCE

- All STRs treated the same (regardless of owner occupied or not)
- Not permitted within 300' of another (certain exceptions)
- Inspection is required for IBC/fire
- One per owner (non-transferable)
- Local rep. designated & notification to neighbors
- Inactivity clause
- Business license required
- Annual inspection required
- Unclear inactivity clause
- 2 night minimum stay

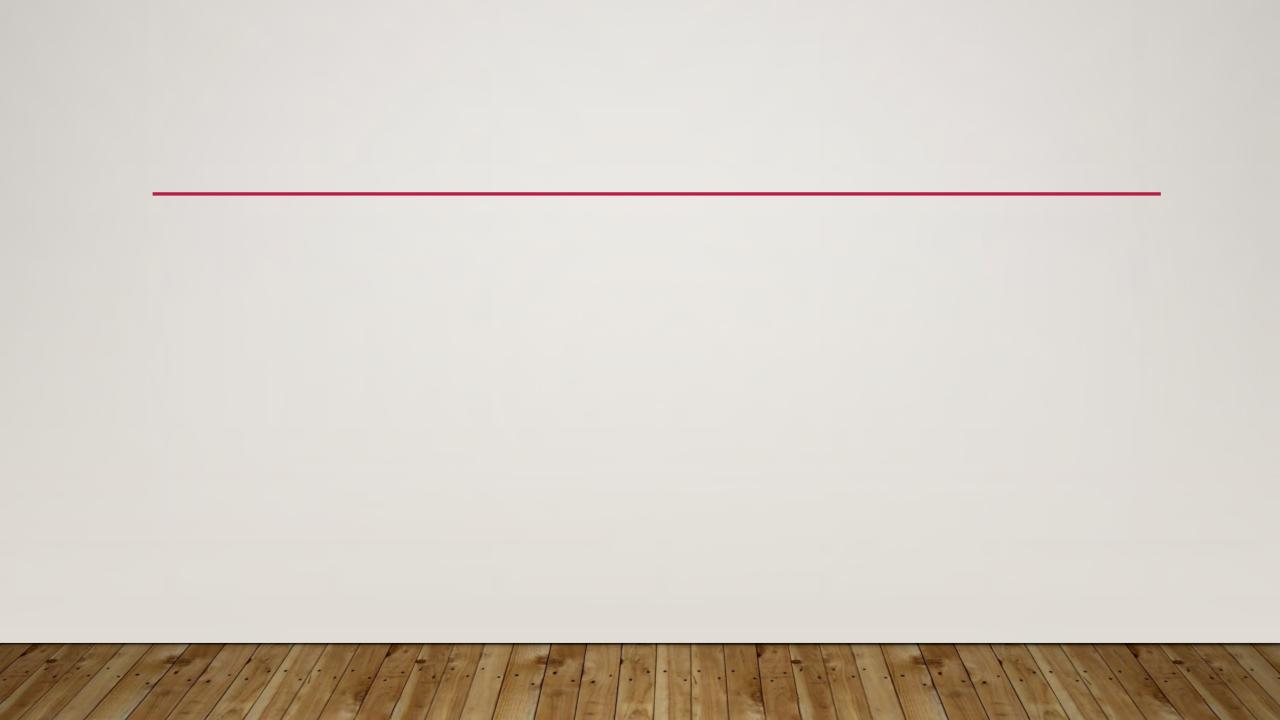


#### REVISED ORDINANCE SUMMARY

- Elimination of the 300' buffer requirement
- Total number of non-owner occupied STRs in residential zones limited to 35 (currently 25 permitted) with exemptions for certain waterfront developments
- No limitation for owner occupied STRs
- Elimination of the requirement of one owner per vacation rental in the residential zones
- Consistent licensing throughout all zones, with specific requirements for residential zones
- 2 night minimum in residential zones (no change)
- One STR per parcel in residential zones
- Elimination of Business License Requirement

#### CHANGES PENDING

- Elimination of certain Building Code Requirements while maintaining requirements for smoke alarms, CO2 alarms, fire extinguishers and emergency egress
- Providing for self-inspections for renewals in order to reduce enforcement pressures and staff
   time
- Beefed up inactivity clause for non-owner occupied STRs in residential zones (12 night min within I year)
- Changes to suspension and revocation processes from violations and also adding an infraction section to match existing language for business licenses
- Establishing that advertisement without permit=violation
- Various other cleanups and refinements





# Macro Trends in the Regulation of Short Term Rentals



Presented by John Spuhler, CSO of STR Helper

# Macro Trends in the Regulation of Short Term Rentals

#### Registration is the Most Effective Leverage Point.

Whatever the cost, when someone is operating w/o a license it is very easy to prove non-compliance and to shut them down. STR's are a business. Businesses must be licensed. There is really no discussion. Everyone is moving to licensing.

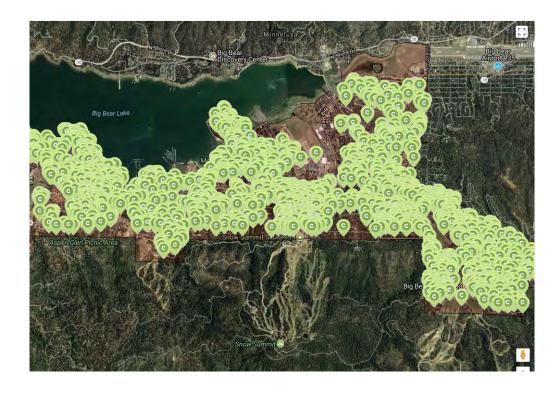
#### **To Use Airbnb Voluntary Collection or Not?**

Pros and cons to this. The answer is up to the specifics of your particular circumstances.

- Airbnb market share
- Are you ok with opening an obvious door for people to cheat?
- Do you have a broader tax remittance platform for businesses throughout town?

#### **Bans Simply Don't Work.**

We have loads of evidence throughout California in particular.
Unless you are a tiny town, bans don't work. See Salt Lake City and
Charleston City as two recent examples we have worked with.





## Macro Trends in the Regulation of Short Term Rentals

#### **Catch More Flies With Honey Than Vinegar.**

Overly aggressive posturing leads to poor relations and in some cases lawsuits. A moderate approach that emphasizes education, communication and moderation ultimately is far more effective.

#### **County/City/DMO Cooperation**

- County administering system on behalf of smaller communities
- Tax remittance
- Ex. Charleston County







## **Ordinance Trends**

#### **Multi-permit Types**

Designed to favor full time residents who are simply trying to make ends meet in expensive communities

#### **Caps and Zones**

- Use zoning laws to your advantage
- Focus on balance
- Ex: Crested Butte, CO

#### **Parking – Trailers**

#### **Trash**

#### Bind both put out and put in time

Any place that has bears, feral cats, and raccoons needs to do this

#### Registration Fees – Pillows vs Flat Fee

- Designed to charge more for very large residences that have a greater community impact
- Ex. Grand County, CO





## **Implementation**

#### **Professional Property Managers are Your Friend.**

Make it easy for them, not hard.

- Registration fee discount for professional managers
- Bulk administration and renewal
- "Agency" issue allow property managers to act on behalf of their customers – example of Vail requiring notarized documents and tons of foreign owners have to go the embassy to get things notarized

#### **Staff Appropriately**

Hammer can't build a house by itself.

Ex. Fredericksburg – Our most successful customers have someone dedicated to the administration of the program. This is almost always paid for by reasonable registration fees.







# **Implementation**

#### **Limit Document Uploads.**

The greater the number of documents, the greater the abandonment rate

Think Through the "Not Happy" Path as it Relates To Noise/Trash/Parking.

Data is a Powerful Weapon – Use It.





#### **Enforcement**

#### **Amnesty Program**

#### Don't be vindictive.

Create an opening to resolve the past by paying a reasonable settlement and agreeing to compliance going forward. Let them know you can now track them and that you want to be reasonable. If they mention George Orwell, hammer them. Ex. Seaside, CA

#### **Avoid Unenforceable Provisions (duhhhh!)**

Literally walk through and explain how you will enforce every provision before you enact it





#### **Enforcement**

#### Now I Have a List of Non-compliant Properties.

How do I track them down, particularly with respect to out of state or worse, out of country, residents

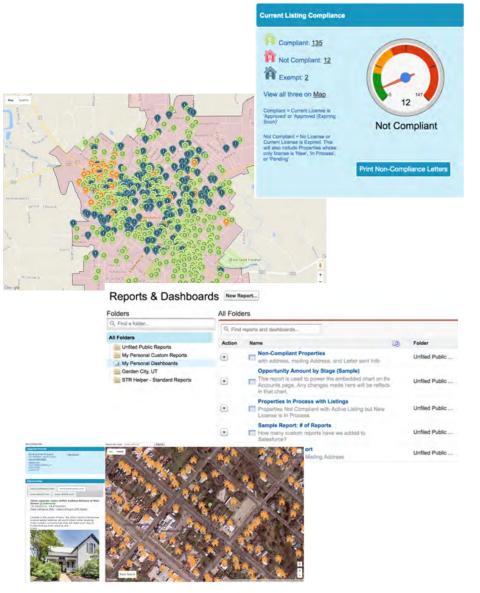
**Example 1:** The mortgage company is paying the taxes through escrow and they don't even have the right mailing info

**Example 2:** Owner lives out of state and serving him is incredibly expensive/difficult

Make Sure Call Center and Enforcement Have Same Hours.

# Synchronization of Property Management Database With Call Center is Critical.

People change property managers all the time. Create a process that both penalizes bad information and makes updates easy.





A FREE REPORT ON THE VACATION RENTALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY IS AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING ME JOHNS@STRHELPER.COM (435)232-0553
OR WWW.STRHELPER.COM

