

From: [Mary S Blanco](#)
To: [Planning Clerk](#)
Subject: STR Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, October 03, 2023 6:30:58 AM

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Hello,

I am sending this email out of concern regarding what short term rentals are doing to our community. This issue impacts me and my husband on a personal level. We both have lived in Humboldt for over 10 years, and love Humboldt's ecology and community. I work in mental health, and my husband works in restaurants. We are looking to start a family, and with the continuous increase in housing costs, we may need to move out of the area to do so. Many of our peers are sharing similar concerns.

Please see my comments below in regards to the latest draft STR ordinance

STR Remove Housing Stock for the community. It is proven that short-term rentals take away opportunities for community members to purchase starter homes and find affordable rentals which has a rippling effect in the fabric of our community and our local economy. If our workforce can't afford to live close by, it means more money and time is being spent commuting, and our neighborhoods become devoid of community.

1.

STR are not being regulated appropriately to prevent "mom-and-pop" hotel chains from developing. The latest text includes

"61.05.10.2.3 Per Person Limit. An individual or business shall not own more than five (5) parcels with Short-term Rental permits."

This would allow property owners five individual homes to rent out as short term rentals. I believe this is far too great of a number and should be reduced to 1 or 0. The regulations make no designation on the limit when compared in family trusts, organizations owned by the same entity or individual and leaves a loophole open for larger STR owners to divide holdings between different companies to continue to operate large numbers of STRs. Cumulatively, the number of STRs in our county represent:

381 active listings in Eureka, average **annual revenue of \$43.3K per rental**
317 active listings in Arcata, average **annual revenue of \$41.4K per rental**
192 active listings in Trinidad, average **annual revenue of \$82.9K per rental**
197 active listings in McKinleyville, average **annual revenue of \$54.5K per rental**

(data from AirDNA.co)

This represents a total of **1087 homes that could re-enter the market as long term rentals or homes for first time homebuyers.**

I support an ordinance that only allows for "Home-share" STR and would eliminate 61.05.10 Short-term Rentals defined as entire homes without a caretaker or resident. This would open hundreds if not thousands of homes up to first time home buyers and long-term renters in our community who currently need homes or are seeking upward home mobility.

2.

If Short term rentals are continued to be regulated, I support additional STR permit fees and additional taxes should be levied to support a housing trust fund to directly support community members including: rental assistance, first-time home buyers and tax benefits for STR owners who voluntarily convert their STR into long-term rentals or sell their STR properties.

3.

*61.05.5 Existing Operations. No permits for whole dwelling unit Short-term Rentals shall be issued during the first two (2) months following the effective date of this section but applications from individuals operating existing short-term rentals will be received. Two months after the effective date of this ordinance the department will issue permits prioritizing applications for locations with existing Short-term Rentals. An existing Short-term Rental shall be determined based on evidence of operation from January 2022 through May of 2023. **If the number of permits issued for existing Short-term Rentals exceeds the cap identified in §60.05.10.2.1, then no permits will be issued for new Short-term Rentals until the number of permitted Short-term Rentals in the County falls below the cap.***

This text would cause a huge rush in new UNREGULATED STR to enter the market in order for their application to be considered. This is because the current cap set for STRs is below the current number of STRs in existence

>> Looking at other areas of the nation and world that have dealt with the issues of STRs, it is in our best interest as a community to eliminate STRs entirely. Short of that, no preferences should be made for existing short term rentals and we should seek to limit the number of short term rentals as much as possible in order to **increase the amount of housing stock available to our community for first time home buyers and for long term rentals to re-enter the market.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Blanco,
Humboldt CA Resident

