

November 9, 2020

Santa Rosa City Council,

I request that the City Council immediately address rules and regulations regarding short term rentals in residential neighborhoods.

Short term rental businesses (e.g. Airbnb) are springing up in residential neighborhoods without any consideration to residents of the neighborhood or zoning. Owners are out-of-town, even out of state and out of country corporations operating on the internet. Neighbors only learn about them after the properties have been converted to small hotels, destroying the fabric of the neighborhood.

The 5 known short term rental in the Montecito area, cause extreme risk of danger to residents in the event of a fire. These short term rental houses regularly accommodate more than 10 cars at a time. During extreme these fire conditions, the number of cars trying to exit these Airbnb party houses would impede fire trucks trying to enter and would place the safety of the residents trying to flee a fire. The roads are mostly narrow and many are one-way roads, and are not designed for this kind of traffic. Please consider this letter official notice to the present danger these corporate owned Airbnb pose to the residents of this area.

In addition to the extreme fire danger risk to the residents, there are always several overflowing trash cans sitting out in the lane street. In the past police have been called due to ruckus and loud behavior. The loss of community within neighborhoods is disastrous.

The city Council should immediately for the safety of our neighborhoods, establish a formal policy protecting residential neighborhoods in Santa Rosa, as has the rest of Sonoma County.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deborah Leaf