

Planning Commission Public Workshop on Short Term Rentals  
Virginia Beach Convention Center  
July 20, 2020

Ms. Oliver: Welcome everyone. My name is Dee Oliver and I am the Virginia Beach Planning Commission Chair and I want to welcome you all here tonight and I appreciate you taking the time to come out and let us know what your thoughts are. So, we are going to have a Public Comment Session and following a brief presentation by the Planning Director and the Zoning Administrator, we look forward to hearing your comments related to short-term rentals. As this is not a public hearing, we will not be deliberating this evening. The Commission is simply here to listen to your opinions and thoughts. Following Mr. Tajan and Mr. Kevin Kemp's comments, we will ask the speakers to make their way to the microphones, there are one on each side. So, it is going to be a first-come, first-served basis. There is no speaker sign-up and we are going to alternate the speakers. There are going to be stickers on the floor on the side aisles, that one I guess that is right there, so, that social distancing can be respected. We ask that you will wear your mask even while you are speaking at the microphone and please do not touch the microphone. Please note that each speaker will have three minutes to make comments and that will be timed and Mr. Tajan.

Mr. Tajan: The plan for today's meeting as Ms. Oliver had noted is to inform the public of the current status and situation of short-term rentals as many of you that are here are invested in, present the referral ordinance that was referred by City Council to the public and obtain public comment on the referral ordinance as well as short-term rentals in general. Please note that there is easy way to get additional information including the workshop that was held by the Planning Commission two Wednesdays ago and you can go [vbgov.com/str](http://vbgov.com/str) and there is a link at the top that will take you to all the information. If you have public comment or additional information, or issues or concerns you can send it to [STR@vbgov.com](mailto:STR@vbgov.com), which will go to our Zoning Division so that we can track all the comments. Since, November 2019, the short-term rental regulations that we currently have been in effect, they were adopted in January 2019. And there was a long time as Ms. Wilson and Mr. Kemp will tell you, a long time of deliberating and trying to figure out what rules to utilize for short-term rentals. Currently, now the City Council has sponsored an amendment by Councilman Tower to refer a proposed ordinance to the Planning Commission, which deals specifically with the Old Beach Overlay District. Overall, changes to dealing with the required findings, grandfathering, enforcement and also transition rules. So, it rules that are in place for people that are applying for short-term rentals. And, also because it was referred by City Council, it is required to be reported back to City Council by September. So, we are moving very quickly when it comes to trying to do policy changes, which is why we wanted to hold this public comment in this forum, so, that we can have the opportunity to hear

from everybody as much as possible. Also, City Council directed staff to review all the short-term rental regulations and not just focus on the Old Beach Area. There will be future discussion and public comment sessions to hear and to view any of those proposed changes of the Planning Commission or staff may be proposing. So, this is not your one time to speak, please continue to pay attention to the website. This public comment is specifically for the referred ordinances that deal with Old Beach and some of the overall language that was referred by City Council. So, as far as our platform we have that shows us how many short-term rentals are operating in the city, we have about over 2500 short-term rentals that are operating in the city, which includes 268, where people are actually staying in the home and renting out a bedroom. We have a registered property list which is individual property owners that are registered and were considered grandfathering for their short-term rentals and we have about 739 of those properties, which were deemed grandfathered prior to being at the adoption of the current regulations in place. As far as the Conditional Use Permit applications was many people are aware of seeing at the Planning Commission and City Council hearings. We have had 195 applications with 75 being approved, seven being denied with one being reconsidered and 116 that are currently in the process of being reviewed. When it comes to the Conditional Use Permit process that is a heavy lift for our staff, that is a large number of applications and for those that are aware of the public process, it is a lot and we are trying to find a way to best capture the comments that we have heard as well as streamline the process where appropriate and where to tighten the process where appropriate as well. At this point, we are going to get to the referral ordinance, I will refer this over to Mr. Kemp, our Zoning Administrator. He will go over the referral ordinances that are before us today.

Mr. Kemp: (inaudible 00:06:02) Back to community and basis for approval or disapproval. There are four required findings we focused on and this is based on the input we have heard from the applications we have considered, the first is that the number of short-term rentals in area does not change the characteristic of the neighborhood. This was really based upon what we are hearing as a desire to protect the stable residential neighborhoods. The second is that parking is readily available, will be reasonably used and is attractive and environmentally friendly. As you know, parking needs to be provided on site, but there are alternate parking solutions that may be approved. These solutions really this talks to that those solutions must be reasonable enough where people would use them and that they are attractive and environmentally friendly, meaning, we do not want people paving their entire front yard to meet the parking requirement. Third of these is that increased occupancy meaning more occupants and more groups of people do not negatively impact residential neighborhoods, we have heard this loud and clear that they can have an impact where you move into a neighborhood you think as a single family neighborhood and short-term rental comes and all of a sudden and there is noise, trash and that sort of thing, so, that

is definitely something to consider. And, the last is just a recognition that these short-term rentals, they do provide a resource for the city they are needed. We are a city that tourism is very important and there are certain areas of the city where these things are more appropriate than others, whether it is the ocean front, major entertainment venues and that sort of thing. So, the location of where these are should be considered. The next general conditions, termination of grandfathered STRs. This would be added that if a short-term rental was not active for two years, the grandfathering status would be removed. This is consistent with how the Zoning Ordinance currently looks at nonconformities. As the ordinance is written now the grandfathering could run forever, this would give it a two-year lifespan. With civil penalties, right now short-term rentals when there is a violation is subject to regular zoning regulation, which is a criminal penalty goes through a long period, first there is a notice of violation then an issuance of a summons, then it goes to criminal court for a fee. What this would do, would increase these Zoning Office's ability to enforce making it a civil penalty and allowing us to assess fines for violations. Then we get to the Old Beach Overlay, this is an amendment again requested by Council that would allow short-term rentals by right in the Old Beach Overlay. The reason why the Old Beach Overlay was chosen, for one it is an established area of the city and it is very defined. For two, it has an actual article in Zoning Ordinance already, Article 19 that lays out the requirements for the Old Beach Overlay. So, what this proposed change would do, would change that article to incorporate short-term rentals into it and it would permit short-term rentals by right in the Old Beach if the short-term rental met all the requirements of 241.2 at the Zoning Ordinance, and the short-term rental was the primary residence, principal residence of the property owner. Therefore, the property owner must live there and reside there at least half of the year. The way the ordinance is written is currently if that requirement were not met, the property owner could not even apply for a Conditional Use Permit. It is just focused on this one area of Old Beach, but again, it is an ordinance that could be mimicked and repeated other places in the city as there is existing overlays and relatively easily comply. So, the transition ordinance, this basically says that the new ordinance will take place whenever Council votes on it and as soon as they vote on it. So, whatever applications are in the queue as soon as Council votes on it, the applications wherever they are in the process are subject to these new regulations. Alright, additional changes these we kind of call as housekeeping issues because they are things that we have seen on most every Conditional Use Permit. We are currently conditioning on each application that events are prohibited, the initial ordinance when it was approved, allowed events between 50 and 100 people for three times per year. And, if there were events less than 50, you could have an unlimited amount. What we have done from the beginning Council has pretty much put on a condition that says no events are permitted outside of the occupancy of the house. What we are doing is adding that into the ordinance as a requirement. Additionally, we are adding in the residential parking permits

that a short-term rental while being operated as short-term rental is not eligible for guests permits. This is also something we have done from the beginning it is stemmed directly out of concern of parking on the streets in the neighborhood. I will give it back to Mr. Tajan. Thank you.

Mr. Tajan: So, City Council has had robust discussions about short-term rentals in general. What we have right now is just the first piece of the short-term rental ordinance that Mr. Tower had proposed and Council has referred to Planning Commission. Staff was also directed to try to take a look at other potential changes that could be put into place now. Those other changes will need public comment and will need plenty of additional input than just what is going on right here. Our key focus right now is to meet the requirement by State Law to bring back the referred ordinance to City Council within 100 days of when it was referred, and that deals with the ones that Mr. Kemp has presented to you. But, we do understand that there are other concerns that have come up with short-term rentals in general and we have been taking notes as best we can, as we have been hearing them and potentially even doing any improvements to maybe some of the code, where we can hopefully try to streamline the process and to better protect our neighborhoods at the same time. As far as the timeline dealing with these referred ordinances, as I said, the recommendation from Planning Commission is required by September 17, which is 100 days from when it was referred to the Planning Commission. Currently, right now, this is scheduled the ordinances that Mr. Kemp went over are currently scheduled for the August 12, Planning Commission Public Hearing. That public hearing is out again August 12, in City Council Chambers and starts at noon that day. And, again, we will continue to take comments on the referred amendments and the short-term rentals in general. So please, we want to make sure we are not missing something I know we have heard a lot about short-term rentals. We have heard a lot from both sides as that are proponents and those that are opponents of them. We want to make sure we are not missing anything as we try to log and take in all that information. Our goal is to make sure we share that data and information is shared with the public to the Planning Commission, as they continue to give staff direction as we helped to craft and assist the Planning Commission with coming up with proposed ordinance changes. So, I will leave this here as we start the public comment. We do again request that you send your comments to , [STR@vbgov.com](mailto:STR@vbgov.com), that email address is goes directly to our zoning division and provides us an opportunity to get your comments and you would not have to be limited to the three minutes that you have here. Also, if you want additional information as the actual copy of the proposed ordinances that have been referred, they are available in [vbgov.com/str](http://vbgov.com/str). You also have a video of the Planning Commission's workshop that was held on July 8, where they had deliberated and discuss short-term rentals in general as well as the Old Beach proposed changes. And again, I know I just said it, but since this slide is going to stay up, the Planning Commission Public Hearing is scheduled for at least at

this moment, August 12. Again, August 12, at noon in City Council Chambers. For that we are done with the staff presentation. Ms. Oliver.

Ms. Oliver: Thank you Bobby and thank you Kevin. So, if the speakers will now make their way to the side aisles. Just remember to respect our social distancing and wear your mask and please do not touch the microphone. You will each have three minutes to make your comments and please start with identifying yourself for the record. And we will begin. Thank you. Sir, we will start with you.

Mr. Bellick: Good evening, thanks for the opportunity to speak. I am Joe Bellick and I live in the Old Beach section; I have lived there for about 26 years now. And, the concerns I have are many, and I will also give you a written copy of my comments tonight. First concern I have is planning in our neighborhoods, for example, Old Beach, I think we just put in a new middle school about four years ago, the whole composition of our neighborhood now is changing because of short-term rentals and the amount of cottages that have been knocked down and three houses are being put up where one was, and now we are having just about every one of them that is going up now has a short-term rental orange sign in front of them (inaudible 00:17:47), they are part of those 116 or so that are actually going to be before you. I hope you take those kind of things in consideration, the future planning for our neighborhoods is very important in getting the mix right in the neighborhoods. The second thing I would like to say is that the enforcement of all the different rules and regulations and stuff that that you are going to have, it is going to require more resources I would believe from somebody, whoever is going to be enforcing that stuff, and that is going to be another burden on the city and more as that kind of raise our taxes and those kind of things. Another thing I would like to consider as well, it is I do not think anybody is really brought up much is the J2 visa program. This this summer, we haven't obviously had the influx of Eastern Europeans and the like that come here, to actually do the work at the hotels and the shops and stuff here at the Ocean Front. They actually need to stay in the neighborhood here at Old Beach. There is a requirement that they have to be close to transportation, close to where they are going to work and all that kind of stuff in order to work. We have been blessed this summer by not having that problem, per se. But, there has been a shortage of housing for the J2 visa folks. And, I just really bring that up as a very important aspect because where are we going to house those people? How are we going to transport them around, we do not have good public transportation. And, that is a whole another story to talk about for another day, but that is a big issue for our hotels and our businesses here at the Oceanfront if they are going to thrive. I have been contacted by at least a dozen different hotels, I am retired right now, but I have been contacted by at least a dozen different places down here. Hey, Joe, you want to come and work? So, next summer, when the Eastern Europeans come back, they are not going to be calling me and they are going to be looking for people and these people that

broker, the J2 visa folks to Virginia Beach, they will just bypass Virginia Beach if they cannot get the proper amount of housing. We have had those discussions at City Council meetings before, I think you guys are fully aware of, you folks are fully aware of the issue and I just bring that up, because if we have a whole influx of short-term rentals, no matter how well regulated they may be, one per property owner, the property owner is going to live there for six months out of the year, all that kind of stuff. We are going to have, every one of these places down here that has an orange sign is going to be able to comply, and they are going to be able to have a short-term rental and then we are going to run out of housing for the J2 visa folks. I do not think we have thought much about where we are going to put these J2 visa folks in the future when Old Beach becomes just a big hotel for short-term rentals. Okay, who do I give my comments to?

Mr. Matthews: Okay, I will just read I sent an email this morning to the [STR@vbgov.com](mailto:STR@vbgov.com) and also to City Council, I did not send it to you guys. But, I will just read what I have got. My experience. Oh, I am sorry. Yes, Richard Matthews, I live at 1317 Mediterranean Avenue. I am next door to 518 14th Street. 518 has been a short-term rental for about a year. I did not attend the Planning Commission, as I had the meeting the original Planning Commission hearing on that application, as I had no objections at that time. I did attend the July 7 City Council formal session in opposition to the 518 application, as I had a great deal of objections at that point. The application was rejected by the Council at that meeting, but now the owner is selling the property and I am concerned we will have a similar experience with the next purchaser. The problem of absentee owners, on July 7, the renter's moving out, put the trash out for pickup. There was so much trash and it was not placed so the city truck could pick it up. So, it was not picked up. The trash overflowed the cans into the street, into our yard, and other neighbor's yards. We each cleaned up our yards and one neighbor kindly cleaned up the mess in the street and contacted the city, who came back and picked up. This was a responsibility of the owner, but he does not live near by and he cannot be aware unless one of us contacts him. So, the owner did not know about the problem. The problem of proximity I called it. There needs to be additional criteria added to the consideration to become a short-term rental that address the physical configuration of the properties. 518 has two entrances, both of those entrances are facing the back of my house. Also, on the front of their house facing the back of my house is a screened in patio, which is where people tend to gather it will hold 18 to 20 people. From the back wall of my house to the front of the patio is 22 feet. Close enough that normal talking is amplified by the overhang and sitting in my living room it sounds like they are in my backyard. Add a few drinks and a few people, and we have to turn up the television to filter it out. Vacationers reasonably expect to be able to have a few drinks, tell a few stories, have a few laughs, and stay up late doing it. It is unreasonable for us to have to endure that two to five nights a week. This creates an either or scenario, either them or us. 518 has not missed a week with renters

in the last three months, sometimes more than one group in a week. Another example, Saturday afternoon two days ago. I am going to send you guys this, thank you, I lost track.

Mr. Carlson: Hello, my name is John Carlson. I have a short-term rental in the OR District. I have been doing short-term rentals since 2004, but the short-term rental agreement that was passed eliminates me. Even though I am in a commercial lot, I am not in Old Beach. I am in an OR District, the way the rules are, I am not grandfathered, even though, there is a state regulation that says I am because I have been permitted and my site plans all been approved by the City of Virginia Beach. So, basically my land has been taken from me by this ordinance. Even though, everything went through planning, everything site plan was approved. So, I just want you to be aware and my request is to take short-term rental out of the OR District. I compete with a hotel and a parking lot. I am not in Old Beach, so, there is no reason for me, as I see it to be under these rules, because I am competing with a hotel, the major big ones that are blocking half for me. So, that is my request is to remove short-term rentals from the OR District. Thank you.

Mr. Bourdon: Madam Chair, Eddie Bourdon. I live in Croatan, but I am not here to speak about Croatan this evening. The first thing that I want to speak about is what gentlemen just started with short-term rentals should not be a conditional use in the OR District. The OR district is not a neighborhood, it is the resort district, it is the high intensity district and as the gentleman just spoke, whose property is behind 7-11, across from a commercial parking lot and a hotel. That should be he is grandfathered, it should be by right in the OR District as it makes zero sense that it is not and it should have in the ordinance what the requirements are that you have to meet, but it should be by right in the OR District and no one should have to have a owner live in it in the OR District. I am not sure that any of old beaches in the OR District, if it is, it does not belong in the OR District. These ordinances talk about compatible with the needed resource in the area of the city and needed is I do not think the right word, I think it should be a compatible resource or a compatible use, not a needed one. I do not think zoning is supposed to pick and choose winners, so, I think the word needed is not the correct word that should be in there. As far as Old Beach, I think there are certainly areas of Old Beach that are more of a typical residential neighborhood, but there are other parts at Arctic Avenue and Baltic avenue that it is a different and I do not know how we define residential neighborhood because there is a lot of different types. I think what we have done with short-term rentals at the Oceanfront Area for the most part has been an upgrade in terms of getting a lot of people to come in and invest and take down some old stuff that needs to be redeveloped. Bob Scott tried for a long, long time to get 21st Street and 22nd Street redeveloped and had multiple plans that grew dust. Short-term rentals has been a catalyst to see that happens. It does not fit everywhere, but I do think it

has a place. The other thing that is important is that with short-term rentals in these conditions, people are making a greater investment, they have to have professional management available 24/7 by email, by phone, you actually have a lot more receptive and ability to get action with a short-term rental than you do a standard rental, or somebody is renting it out a month at a time or a week at a time. And, then you really do not have all these mechanisms that we are putting in place for short-term rentals. So, I do think that there is a plus side that people should at least take the time to review and understand. I think a Conditional Use Permit makes sense, I am not sure the overlay for Old Beach works and if it does I think you need to have a use permit option as well because again, if you look at some of the pictures that will have with later hearings of properties that had redeveloped as a consequence of short-term rentals, I think it is pretty impressive. As long as all the conditions are adhered to. I had a call today about one that is coming up at the North End. The person called because this is coming to Council in a couple of weeks. But, is an example of how the having immediate contact gets immediate results. Thank you.

Mr. Horvath: I am Larry Horvath. I am a resident of Baylake Pines. I am also an officer on the Civic League at Baylake Pines. We are a neighborhood of about 350 homes, we are have about a third of a mile of Bayfront Beach. All of our neighborhood is suburban, and I am speaking on behalf of probably almost everybody in the neighborhood, all the homeowners, we do not want short-term rentals in our neighborhood. And, I have said that before, I know some of you recognize me and I recognize a lot of you. The ordinance in the City Ordinance 241.2, I think, is just scratching the surface of protecting our neighborhoods, we have bought into our neighborhoods to cultivate long-term relationships with our neighbors to know who each other are to recognize each other when we get home from work. To know we can trust each other to look after our children. We want to watch each other and our children grow old together. And 241.2 just scratches the surface, we bought into this residential neighborhood to protect these things and this is the most important aspect of the residential zoning, it is the permanent nature of it. And, a rental to new groups of people every week does not even come close to being a permanent resident. And, the residential zoning is defined or residence is defined in Webster's as permanently residing, permanently occupying, and that is what we all understood it to be. And, we have had people come to the Civic League and tell us when we had a short-term rental opened up last summer. They did not expect this to happen in our neighborhood and they were absolutely just shocked. So, I want you guys to know that we expect you guys to protect residential zoning, if you do not and if you let these businesses they are basically hotels with absentee managers, absentee landlords, you may as well just get rid of residential zoning and let businesses, whatever prerogatives they have set up in any residential neighborhood. We really want this residential neighborhoods protected. I am a little surprised that I have got to keep coming year after year and meeting after meeting to explain this and I

hope I hope the point sinks in with a lot of the new members. We were hopeful, we were happy that we would pass the Conditional Use Permit requirements, but basically just satisfying 241.2 does not come close. You need to have public input. If you see people writing in and telling you that they do not want this and people coming to the hearings, that they do not want these businesses next door. You have got to listen to them, because this is what the majority of residential homeowners want. They want their neighborhoods protected. That is all I got to say.

Mr. Ettel: Madam Chairman, Chris Ettel, I am involved in 11 homes in Old Beach that we have rented out short-term for about four years. We have now have them all approved by the regulations. They are professionally managed, most of which are managed by a gentleman that lives in Old Beach. And, to my knowledge and discussions with him, we have not had any major issues, any issues that we do have, we address them immediately. In Old Beach, short-term rentals have been around for years, probably over 40 years. Why? Because, it is a great proximity to the resort and all the amenities that our city has to offer. Not everyone visiting here wants to stay in a hotel, the demographic of our guests, our families that are travelling here looking for a safe and clean environment, and they want to have a kitchen so they can cook meals and do not necessarily have to go out all the time. Particularly, in this COVID environment, it is been even of more demand because again, the safety and the cleanliness. I do not understand why Planning and Council have adopted these regulations just a year ago. And, we are now talking about changing and we have not even given them a chance to work. I would suggest that we give them a chance, we want to be a good partner for those that do live in the neighborhood and we would like to find some common ground. But, I would say that limiting them to only owners that is the primary principal residence is in Old Beach, why do you single out Old Beach that is the most obvious place to have the short-term rentals because it is close to all the resort amenities. So, I do not understand that, but I would like to find a way that we can find some common ground, so, that the residents would be happy. And, we have reached out to some residents and we are going to continue to do that, we want to be a model for the correct way to do this. And, we appreciate all your time and effort that you put into trying to make this work. Thank you.

Ms. Messner: It is discrimination for you all not to wear a mask and for them not to come up and speak. Okay, but why do not you all this is, this is insane. We're six feet apart. Okay. You are all appointed by City Council, which is a conflict. You do what City Council wants and that is a major problem. The short-term rental owners should be on site and not use these strictly for investments. We have flooding issues, traffic issues, major violent crime that has yet to be fixed by the City and for people to call 311 or try to get in touch with these people, their names and their sign should be out front. 2500 operating that you know of, I

have been waiting for that stat from Mr. Tajan, could have a bigger table, so, they do not have to sit side-by-side, Mr. Kemp did not wear his mask. Okay, Ms. Henley has consistently admitted that we do not have health inspectors anybody to inspect these. They never should have been approved, destroying the residential neighborhoods and the ability for anybody to buy a house, investors from out of state including the football player who does not even live at Croatan. His is not supposed to go before Council until September, he is already renting it. He puts his sign way back here where you cannot see it. And, we have driven by and there are different cars all the time. I think it would be nice if you gave people a warning like you do at Planning. And, this is where the politicians live and this is where the voters live. We are not considered and in all these special meetings and mandates for mask, there is no proof of what people are getting sick from, it is on off. And, all these special meetings you know, none of these are properly signed by the Mayor. He has never held a press conference and he does not even sign his name. So, none of this is proper or due process and the way this is run today is a major disappointment, also that City Council Members are not here. Thank you. Barbara Messner. Okay. Yeah, if you could ask everyone, so, we can hear because we have not been able to hear you all very well, it is mumbling. Mr. Tajan could have come up here to speak, it is all mumbled.

Mr. Bailey: Good evening, I am Bob Bailey, I am at 1200, Mediterranean Avenue and Vice President of the Resort Beach Civic League. I noticed you had up there about 2600 approved STR, I am assuming they are approved versus just there in the city. One of the things that you also mentioned is the characteristics, you do not want change the characteristics of the neighborhood. But, what you are doing is changing to some degree, the morale fiber of the neighborhood and a lot of people talked about it and what is happening now is more of the neighbors are now policing the neighborhood, where you would normally have a family there, I do know that that would be doing it as well. And, there is no real great enforcement, I mean, if you have a problem you call the manager and he is supposed to show up or she is about show up that does not always happen. So, then it ends up being on the police, the police have much better things to do than running around trying to stop noise in a short-term rental. What is also happening is there are more builders that are now building strictly for short-term rental. For now even taking one more step back from someone that owns the house to now have a builder who has a manager, so, you three back before we even get to someone that is going to be able to help you out. But, I have some ideas and I have done a lot of research on this looking at other coastal beach neighborhoods and cities, and then even looking at some others. I do agree first of all with the primary ownership, I think that that is important. I think that at least gives some skid in the game for that short-term rental. But, here is some other things that I have come up in other areas, either a percentage or a fixed number of short-term rentals in a particular neighborhood, having one rental per

week, and we kind of talked about Virginia Beach being a destination location, that kind of place nicely into that whole marketing scheme were saying that because rather than having someone in for two or three days and then the other four days or whatever, you have at least a steady seven day period that someone is in the place, and I think they would be coming here to actually be on vacation. And, the last thing, I want to mention is that most places have no multifamily dwellings are allowed to have short-term rentals. And, I think that is probably an area that is probably would be critical if I lived in one of those. Because, rather than having someone maybe 20 to 30 yards away from here, you now have someone right next door to you and I think that should be looked at. And, I know that in Lakewood that they are really starting to do that down in the Shadowlawn Villas are starting to approve them left and right. So, I think that should be a consideration as well. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Oliver: Thank you very much.

Mr. Hughes: Good evening, Madam Chairman. Thank you for this opportunity to address you with the short-term rental concerns. My name is Bob Hughes I am the President of Kamla Unit Owners Association. Kamla is a 15-unit condominium located in the heart of the Oceanfront Resort District at the intersection of the 22nd Street and Atlantic Avenue. It is hardly a residential area, our neighbors are the Econo Lodge to the south of us. The Marjac Suites to the north of us, and for those of you that have been around for a while Hammerheads used to be right across the street. So, residential concerns are not something that has been a problem for us. Kamla is 35 years old and met all the requirements when it was built back in back in the 80s, and out of the 15-units 10 are in short-term rentals and all but one are professionally managed. And, as a local owner, I live in Chesapeake. I am down here at the Oceanfront a couple of times a week dealing with things. We have a part-time manager who is at the oceanfront on the weekends to manage the parking situation. And, we do not have enough parking spots to meet the new requirements, I can meet them by paying \$600 a year for an offsite parking spot. But, in the 21 years that I have owned there, we have never had an issue with parking. We have never run out of parking, so, I joined the other speakers that said, why do residential rules apply in the OR District or essentially a commercial district, we are not residential. And, I think I will release the rest of my time to the other folks here. Thank you.

Ms. Mijares: Good evening. Thank you for letting us speak Commissioners. My name is Paige Mijares and I work with Atkinson Realty, I am the principal broker there. And, my family business has been managing vacation rentals since 1943, almost 80 years we have been in this business. So, when we talk about the character of these neighborhoods, at least the ones that we are talking about this evening, short-term rentals have always been a piece of those neighborhoods. We have gone through the gamut, we understand the issues and the challenges. Just to give you a sense of the extreme, maybe not extreme, but the measures that we

go to manage our properties, our owners pay for extra trash pickup on Saturdays. If that professional company misses something, we have onsite maintenance people that go and clean up that trash. We have full-time people who are on call 24/7. So, when an issue comes up and they do, I understand that, our people are there to either shut down a party or anything from making sure a dog is not a nuisance to bigger issues like that. So, to see our industry go through this process, it has been difficult for us, because we have always tried to be good citizens in the City of Virginia Beach, and we feel like we are a stakeholder in the city. When I look at the regulations that are in place now, and especially the ones that were put up on the screen, I feel like there is a lot of contradictions in this document and even in the way that we are operating. When the City says that short-term rentals are valued these are like taking little bowling pins and smashing a boulder on them. There will not be any pins left and when I look out five years, that is truly my concern is that these regulations are going to completely kill the legitimate industry, all you will be left with are the underground operators. My goal would be to or my thought and you have heard it in different speakers that have been up here today is that there really are two tracks, there are the professionally managed properties that they are not nuisances, any nuisance that comes up, there is someone there right away to deal with that. They provide families with vacations for them to enjoy our beautiful city and we are there to help them do that. The other track would be that these kind of rogue operators that are not in town, they are not there to address problems and nobody wants to see trash left on the streets. I have seen it as well, I know a lot of it has to deal with those owners that are not available. So, that is really kind of my point tonight is just to draw a distinction between the managed vacation rental industry. And, what we were talking about with these kind of rogue operators, I guess I would say. I am done. That is all good.

Mr. Spicer: Thank you guys for hearing us tonight. My name is Mike Spicer. I have two condominiums, two bedroom condominiums at the same Kamla Building that Mr. Hughes spoke about. I too would agree with several people in here that I think we in the Oceanfront District should not be a part of this. We are surrounded by commercial buildings, the only complaints that we have in our area are people inside of our building that complain about the people rushing out of the bars at 2am and come around the boardwalk. Most of our tenants do not create a problem, we have a secured gated parking lot. I think we are about 12 rented condominiums within 15 that are there. We have eight guest spaces and I for one, I am not willing to pay \$600 plus for an annual parking spot, most of us only rent short-term during the three months of the summer. Most of us do long-term rental in offseason, we have a lot of military turnover in the area. And, we have a lot of military folks that come for four or five, six months. We do not have any of the issues that I have heard and both of the meetings online have been pretty much strictly all about the housing developments. I have not really heard anybody speak about Oceanfront, very minimal. We have seven

night minimum stay in our building. We have gone to three trash pickups a week now, I think mainly because of COVID people are eating in now and not going out to restaurants. So, we are professionally managed. We have a maximum of six occupants. We only have two bedroom condominiums in this place. Most people do not have two vehicles. I do not agree that this attaches to Oceanfront, but if it does, the only thing that I like that I have seen is one parking space required up to two bedrooms and one space per bedroom after the two. So, if we are not removed from this, I agree with that statement. Thank you.

Mr. Ramaekers: Good evening. Thank you for your time and thank you for organizing this evening. My name is Frank Ramaekers of Sandhills Properties and AirBnB Five Star Hosting. I am just going to read the letter that I sent. Our family company Sandhills Properties have refurbished two homes in the Old Beach Area and have qualified them as Virginia Beach historical homes. They are both short-term rentals and are being a permanent residence during the offseason, one of them. Without the income that we have reduced from the short-term rentals, we would not have been able to refurbish them and to qualify them as historic homes, thus preserving the Old Beach concept. STRs are necessity to a vibrant resort area, which I live in and I also raise my family. Our three children attend Cooke Elementary, and we are active in the neighborhood as residents always trying to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. All short-term rentals that we manage through AirBnB and own have beautiful curb appeal, above and beyond the curb appeal of your rentals and better than some of our neighbors. The curb appeal of the homes we own and manage must be maintained to achieve quality guests, who come and stay with us and spend their vacation at our homes and here in Virginia Beach. The short-term rentals provide income for my family, retirement for my parent's and a comfortable income for our cleaning services, which we contract. Local families benefit dramatically from the income that is produced of the short-term rentals. When the City Council mentions of altering or changing the rules and regulations, you are also altering and changing the livelihood of families. Families reside here in the Old Beach neighborhood, families pay property taxes, families who send their children to public schools, families who are citizens of Virginia Beach and always striving to improve the quality of life here in Virginia Beach. We own and manage all of our properties to the utmost standards of AirBnB and VRBO, five stars ratings all through past four years. We do this for the neighborhood, our families, and most of all for the guests who visit Virginia Beach. Virginia Beach hosts millions of guests yearly and we are professional hosts. I appreciate your time. Thank you. I would like to note that we are hands on management, when an incident happens, we are there and I always have been there. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Oliver: Thank you very much.

Ms. Chubb: Good evening. My name is Marjorie Chubb, and I am a property manager of Berkshire Hathaway. And, the agent from Atkinson basically said almost everything I was going to say, so, I would not repeat all that. But, I did want you to consider a few things. I am also a property manager for the other two speakers here that spoke about 2113 Atlantic Avenue in the Kamla Condominiums. I have been managing them since 1999, and with the extra eight parking spaces, we have never ever had an issue as far as parking is concerned. And, we have never had a guest complain that they were not able to park there at all. The other thing with these parking regulations sometimes you got, I believe you have a size requirement on them. In these Oceanfront Condos, we know that parking is a premium and I would like you to consider maybe allowing the smaller sized parking spaces for those compact cars that can fit in those, because we all know Oceanfront parking is at a premium. The other thing I want to talk to you about was the Oceanfront Condos, The Dolphin Run, The Kamla, and The Edgewater. It is truly impossible to meet your parking requirements. So, perhaps you can consider instead of requiring them to have a CUP, perhaps you can consider them have professional management instead. My myself and my staff is on call 24 hours, seven days a week to handle any kind of complaints, problems, whatever and we are on it immediately. Also, like to know if you would consider a garage as a parking space for my North End properties because parking is a little, sometimes not as available in the North End as well. That is all I have. Thank you.

Ms. Oliver: Thank you very much.

Mr. Cal: Good evening. My name is Robert Cal. I live on 76th Street and I realize I am very late to this conversation. An orange sign showed up across from my house a couple months ago and I have become interested since then. So, I am going to ask some questions rhetorically, and they probably have been answered and I am going to try to research those answers, but maybe there is something in here that has not been considered and that would be worthy of consideration. First of all, when I first started looking at a short-term rental, to me it should be different or more defined, I will say AirBnB, but I will call those very short-term rentals, maybe limit short-term rentals to one-week and nothing more than that. Conceivably, if the place across to me were granted, it was deferred, but if it comes back and is granted, there will be three bedrooms, three people per bedroom, three cars twice a week. Why is that not commercial, I do not understand why that isn't a commercial enterprise. I couldn't open a barber shop in my house. Why can they open hotel rooms in a neighborhood that is my second question. There was a comment I saw on your handout earlier the character of the neighborhood, what does that mean. Is there going to be a certain percentage of a street or a neighborhood that is allowed to be short-term rentals and nothing after that, how is that going to be defined. Is there a way to confine what would be in my term alters short-term rentals like you did the

scooters, put some definition on a thing, so, these things are spread out throughout the neighborhood. In my neighborhood, there happens to be three and soon to be four widows on our street. They are very concerned about safety. It does not seem feasible to me, to all of a sudden we have hotel rooms opening up into private in neighborhoods like this. And, then is there any provisions should everyone sign a petition that says we do not want it. Is there any provision to say, it is not approved, because the neighborhood does not want it. Is there any provision for that in what you are looking at. And then lastly, the enforcement, I talked to the fellow in Planning and I said, what happens if something goes on, he said, well, you call the police. I said, well, our police have plenty to do. He says, well, if there is something happened on the weekends, you do not want to call the police and call me on Monday morning. Well, Monday morning, it is too late when something, there is a party or whatever is going on Friday or Saturday night. Those are the questions I had and I am going to seeking if they have already been asked and answered, I will be looking for those. But, I thank you for your time.

Ms. Oliver: Thank you very much sir.

Ms. Benz: Hello, my name is Christine Benz, a resident of Baylake Pines for over 40 years. Thank you, Chairman Oliver and Commission Members for the opportunity to express my concerns regarding STRs in residential neighborhoods. We purchased our home over 40 years ago in Baylake Pines and raised two children there. We chose not to live at the busy Oceanfront or Sandbridge or in densely populated condo areas. Baylake Pines is a quiet residential community. I feel that in allowing STRs, it will change the basic feel of our community. After 40 years, I would not expect to find and would be uncomfortable with a weekly parade of strangers, possibly next to me or across the street from my home. I am also concerned with the potential decrease in my property value if this should occur. For all the same reasons we in Baylake Pines expressed our concerns over a year ago. I would ask you to please not allow STRs in our residential community. Thank you very much for your time, Chris.

Mr. Hartman: Hello. Hi, I am Doug Hartman with my wife Cindy, we live in the Old Beach District. And, I just wanted to leave three thoughts if I could. First one is that I would emphasize that the word short in short-term rental is the core of our problem. Because when you are doing a short-term rental, you are renting to someone you do not know, someone that you can't fully vet, someone who does not take responsibility for what they are going to be doing there. And, usually it works, like 99% of the time it probably works, 1% of the time it may not. When you got 2500 houses, 1% of the time not working it is a problem. We have had people on our street that put out a Facebook or Instagram party, oh, 200 people show up. So, short-term is a problem. Second is, I think we know it is a problem, because if you look at the Conditional Use Permit process, that is a ridiculously unscalable technique to try and push back against that cannot

possibly work problem, right. There is hundreds of applications, a big backlog, the approval process is somewhat arbitrary. And, even if you approve them all, you still have the same problem. So, I do not think that is a solution. My last point is, I think if you look at the, the Old Beach Overlay, I am not quite sure if people of OR District, but if you look at the Old Beach District, it is about 16 blocks, right. It is mostly West of Arctic, it is mostly North of 22nd and a half, it is mostly residential. And, while they are dealt with some history of some older properties that have been successfully rented out. Going forward, the Old Beach Overlay came into being for a reason, people invest in that, upgrade architectural standards. I think the short-term rentals in commensurate with that. Thank you.

Ms. Oliver: Thank you very much.

Ms. Davis: Hello, I am Linda Davis. I live in the Lakewood section of Virginia Beach. I sent an email to the STR@vbgov. I do not know whether you received it or not. But I do want to go over a couple of the points that I made in my email. I have lived next door to a STR for a year, they have been operating for a year I have lived there longer. And, I noticed that you are going with the Beach Overlay about having a property owner for six months and a day and I am here to tell you that is not going to solve anything, because they are not there in the summertime when it is being rented. They may be there in the wintertime, but they are not there in the summer. So, they are not going to see all the issues that come up. They are not going to see the fact that there is more cars in the parking area than there should be. They are not there to see that there is more people than should be in the house. They are not there to hear the noise. They are not there to see the trash. They are just not there, because they do not have to be. They should have to be on the premise. They should not be allowed just to own the home as their principal residence, because the neighbors around these STRs are the ones that are having to take responsibility for all the issues that are coming up when we have renters coming in twice a week. The other issue that I see is the fact that the density is too great. They are allowing three people per bedroom. We have a four bedroom house next door, 12 people minimum are there all the time, 12. We have two people in our house, two people in the other house, a person over here we have 12 in this house. You try living next door 12 people vacationing all summer long. It is not easy, it is not fun, they are loud, and none of these renters have been awful they have just been vacationers, but there are too many of them in a house to be in a residential neighborhood. There should not be 12 people allowed to rent an STR and the owner once again, is not there, he is not the one hearing the noise in the middle of the night. He is only pocketing the money; we are the ones that are having to deal with it. And that is all I have to say about that. Thank you for listening.

Ms. Segal: Hello, my name is Joyce Segal and I have a long-term rental along Arctic Avenue and I am surrounded by weeklys and I do not have a problem like they

said the parking is an issue, which the restrictions are trying to solve, but the people are mostly here because they do not want to be on Atlantic Avenue with children, teenagers, and subject to the bar scenes and you know scantily clad women for the guys, but the one to one thing no one has brought up is my property used to be eight units, now it is four and across the road it was five, now it is two. So, if anything, these are big, beautiful homes and people pay a lot of money, and the City has got to be getting some good taxes from that income. So I am for it, thank you.

Ms. Holden: I am Denise Holden and I have a short-term rental on Baltic Avenue, the little pink house. And I am actually going to riff off of what she said, and I have owned that house since 1990. It is been owner occupied, it is been long-term rented and now it is short-term rented. I understand that people who are worried to live in the neighborhoods and think it is residential, but you cannot control who is going to live in your house. I have long-term renters next to me and I have a lot of problems with them. You cannot control how many parties they have, how many people come to spend the night, its people's behaviors the way it is. You can you can ask for better contracts to be written. If there is problem they lose their deposit, they are thrown out. Why aren't they calling the police if they are having issues. I have not had any issues with my people in four years. I cannot have seven days stays. The people who stay at my house want to visit their kid at Oceana. They are down from DC for a long weekend. They are perfectly happy. They are perfectly quiet. I do not have any problems. So I think it is more the intent of what you have the short-term rental for. It serves a great purpose in this city. Not everyone wants to stay in the hotels. But it is also not just people who own the house and live here for 40 years. We have a lot of transient people. We have a lot of people that move in and out in six months. I remember what the 90s were like in Old Beach. I think you just need to take it into consideration. I think it is a good thing for the beach. Thank you very much.

Ms. Shane: My name is Michelle Shane. I live at 405 22nd Street and I have lived there since I was 16 years old. I am buying the house from my mother and I have three units, one-unit an AirBnB, the other two are affordable housing. When I started the AirBnB, I bought a license, I paid taxes and I would like to thank whoever came up with the idea of grandfathering some of us in who were responsible business people. I also ran a small store in the farmers market for 35 years and I want to let you know that inflation, taxes, employee taxes drove me out of business in 2018, I closed that business. I depend on the income from this one short-term rental to help pay the taxes that just went up \$1,000. I am hard working. I do not have an income that comes from some big company. I make my own money by working hard, cleaning an AirBnB. I believe some of the regulations you have already put forth are very good, and they are pretty easy to deal with. I have 10 units across the street from me that are also short-term rental. They went in I do not know maybe five years ago. I did want to say

thanks for the idea of grandfathering in. I thought that was a really good idea. I know it is a big problem. I am happy to come and speak about it anytime. So thank you for giving us the opportunity.

Mr. Arthur: Jim Arthur with Sandbridge Realty. I am sorry that in such a short period of time we are back discussing short-term rentals. I wanted to start by saying 311 operators received 10 complaint calls in the last three months. There are over 2500 short-term rentals in the city, can't understand how this can become such an issue again. I am not an agreement to the amount of civil penalty fines for the 241.2 ordinances. Let us take trash for example, there are already civil penalties on the books for not removing your trash can in a timely manner. The code is 31-3.1. The penalties are \$25 fine for the first offence. So, let me draw you a picture, because you are a short-term rental, you are fined for leaving out your trash can too long is \$200 and \$500 for each additional occurrence. Your next door neighbor's a resident and they are fine for doing the same thing you did, is going to be \$25 and \$50 for each additional occurrence. Plus in Sandbridge for 19 weeks in the season, the short-term rentals have to pay for their own trash removal on Saturday, not the City. Wedding, signage, zoning posters, do all these warrant the \$200 fine. I own a property in Old Beach, I have rented it out as yearly rentals for almost 20 years. I have short-term rentals all around me on the street. I have never had an issue with short-term rental homes. The short-term rental homes have to maintain a higher standard, but they just don't rent. To have an ordinance to just allow principle use short-term rentals, will kill the short-term rentals in any area. Look at the demand by the 116 backlog of applications with majority of them being in that area. The city bases its livelihood on tourism. This will be a cancer that will creep into other areas if passed. Under Section 12-B-1 the density of the short-term rental users the immediate vicinity, do not change the characteristics of the neighborhood. What does that mean? This gives City Council godlike decision tool to disprove a short term rental. City Council is doing this now, they put up a map with the short-term rentals around the applicant of the CUP. The applicant is followed all the rules and because someone thinks there is too many there already, they are rejected. It is absolutely absurd. Section 12-B-2 onsite parking resolutions are visually appealing and environmentally responsible, again giving City Council godlike decisions, even if the applicant has followed all the regulations. In Section 12-B-3 an increased occupancy of short-term rental is compatible with the neighborhood. This could stop all short-term rentals in Virginia Beach. The average household in Virginia Beach has three occupants. The only short-term rental compatible is a one bedroom rental. City Council could use this to reject all others over three occupants. Old Beach is a dynamic and ever changing community and based on the heart of tourism. Many of these potential ordinances need to be lined through or rejected. And, just leave the short-term rentals alone. Thank you.

Mr. Jeff: Hello, thank you. My name is Jeff, I live in Princess Anne Woods. We had a short-term rental show up in February, it is licensed, but it has no signage and the owner refuses to put signage up. We have been calling the police because of the issues each week and for the past month. I think it is an incredible waste of time the city resources for us to have to call the police every weekend to address the problems. It goes to resources for the city and a waste of the allocation that they are. As you would not license an industrial area to be put in a residential zone or commercial enterprise, you should not license short-term rentals to be in a neighborhood facility as well. The hypocrisy is there. If you would just treat the short-term rentals like you would any other hotel, it would solve part of the problems that you have, but you have chosen not to do that so far. That is my point and that is the problem that we have. I think some of the same issues are occurring in a lot of other neighborhoods, we urge you to listen to your constituents and take short-term rentals out of neighborhood locations. Thank you.

Ms. Hume: Hello, my name is Lynn Hume and I have been a property owner and a realtor in the Shore Drive Area since 1980s. And, we have got two cute cottages along the Bay Area in two different neighborhoods, built in the 50s in the 70s. The quaint, the small cottages and we usually do not attract seven day rentals, our guests are looking for quiet getaways for maybe two or three days, four days. So, twice weekly rentals are more than norm for our properties as well as many of the other people that I know in the neighborhoods. We like short-term rentals. We can get in and get out. Take care of the inside easier, keep track of the outside. And, we have five star ratings. We do not allow events. I would like to emphasize that our zoning and property rights were already set and grandfathered just a few years ago. And, I am not sure how this all came up again. We bade this is our retirement income, helped us put our son through school. He helps in the properties when he is home. It is what we are going to live on. We based our retirement on short-term rentals and our other rental properties. This would be as downzoning. If you are worried about problem properties a comparison somebody else mentioned long-term rentals are a problem, I have got those too. You can complain about a long-term rental, but you cannot get them out. If you have problem tenants that qualified and they are great. But, then they get in there and they start bringing all their friends over. You cannot, it is really hard to get them removed. When you live in the beach areas, my goodness, cars are parked all over the street, there is wild parties that is the beach neighborhood. That is the flavor of the beach, if you do not want to live there, if you do not like it, do not be there. So, we have already spent two or three years hashing out zoning rules. We planned again our future on these rules. It would be a down zoning and we hope that you would not restrict our rights anymore. And, I am not sure what is going on the other areas, but our people love our rentals, our neighbors love our rentals. Anyway, I wish you would leave it the way it is. Thank you.

Ms. Atkinson: Good evening Commissioners, I am Betsy Atkinson with Atkinson Realty. We have been renting short-term rentals since 1943. I was actively involved in a lot of the discussions that came up with the original short-term rental ordinances. And, one of them was about grandfathering, it's what I would like to talk to you about today, we were told that if we would enter our rentals with the Commissioner of the Revenue before July 1, 2018, we would be grandfathered. I have relied on that as part of the properties that I have managed since, not 1943, but for a long time, I would like to see that this amended ordinance be not agreed upon, and that grandfathering would continue it runs with the land, and it should be like any other grandfathering any other type of ordinance, and I would highly ask you not to put it to your condition on this. Thank you.

Ms. Parker: Good evening. My name is Nancy Parker, I am a 50-year resident of the Beach District. I am president of the Resort Beach Civic League, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, the RBCL has been unable to meet to discuss this issue as a group. I did take the opportunity, though, to listen to your two hours and 20 minute workshop on July 7, and I was very impressed with the things that I was hearing the things you all were talking about. I am hopeful there is a realization of the impacts this format is making on our neighborhoods. You are asking the right questions by acknowledging that neighborhood characteristics and stability should be a critical aspect in the process. I want you to know that the Resort Beach areas are not a party place. They move from that point which was in the 70s and in the early 80s, it is something now that is very family friendly, oriented. That is why most of us live there. The first question is do the Beachfront residential neighborhoods have a future in Virginia Beach. These include not only the Old Beach neighborhood, but Pinewood, Lakewood, Croatan, Shadowlawn, North Beach, and those along the Chesapeake Bay. If the answer is yes, the next question should be, does the present format of short-term rentals provide protection and stability for the wellbeing and standard of living for those residents. What needs to change? Ideally, no more short-term rentals would be my preference. But I think coming to the conclusion, that is probably not a reality. The present pace of short-term rentals and present regulations will dramatically change the year around residential character in the Old Beach neighborhood. In fact, these regulations are not beneficial to any real residential neighborhood. Only the investor benefits, who usually lives elsewhere. Listening to the comments that you made potential changes that you are looking at was the guide tower option, which I think has some merit to further discussion until something has changed or options are changed. My suggestion is to turn down and if you cannot turn down at least add extra regulations or conditions as has been done so that people will not be able to have events was an add on to it. The limit of one per week seems to be much more conducive to the neighborhood stability than having a constant rotating in and out. I think Mr. Alcaraz said he has to retrain the pony every twice a week to

be able to keep up what is going on. Reduced the number of people in the bedroom to two, the present regulations permit on a three or four bedroom house anywhere from nine to 12 people, you do not usually find that in a neighborhood. The strength and stability of the residential neighborhoods adjacent to the resort area is acknowledged in the comprehensive land use plan and the resort area strategic actions plan. In the neighborhoods, people have to work, reduce the time for outdoor music to 10am to 9pm. And, the process to remove a Conditional Use Permit is insanely cumbersome for the neighborhood and the City. Review complaints within the year and with three complaints are recorded and involved police, the permit will go before the City Council for revocation. This will foster careful monitoring of guests and from what I hear most of these folks would not have a problem with that. Safe and secure neighborhoods with a high quality of life “are the bedrock of Virginia Beach” and should be the driving factor in this decision process. Short-term rentals are an intrusion into all residential neighborhoods. Thank you.

Mr. Taylor: Good evening. I am Bob Taylor. I am Cavalier Park Resident and also actively engaged in short-term rental in the Old Beach area and also had the opportunity to serve on the City Commission that studied this earlier, so, I appreciate you all taking your time this evening to come down here some of that same kind of commentary that I heard earlier. I shared some comments with you in written fashion, I thought tonight I just maybe share a little bit of why I am engaged in short-term rental and it started really with an interest in Old Beach and seeing the development down there. We bought our first property on 25th Street down there and it is interesting to see the folks who have rented that and they were new to the area in a lot of cases, have since chosen to stay in Virginia Beach, build a house in Virginia Beach. Some of those homes have been built in Old Beach, some have been built at the North End. But it has been a great entry point for new people coming into our community. And, I started to look at that development and particularly the proximity to the resort area, to 19th Street, to the new Sportsplex, and Convention Center and the development associated with that and said, you know, what a great place for short-term rental here to give an opportunity for families to come down. And, a week is great if you can take that off. But, in today's environment a lot of times it is a long weekend. And that is where the short-term rental pieces come together. But Bob was going to go into it, it was not going to be something that Bob was going to do as a full-time profession, but I really had an interest in it. So, the criteria for me were really partnering with people who knew how to do it right. And that is why for us having that professional management engaged in it is so very, very important. They are there 24/7, when the problems come up. They know our neighbors. We want to be good neighbors in the areas where we are offering these rentals. And, so, they have answered that for us. And, so, we do not have problems and then to the kind of inbound piece of it of the clientele that we are renting too when you are working with companies, whether it is an AirBnB or VRBO, you

have that visibility, that rental history, the background on those individuals, and it is all very, very important to keeping it a trouble free environment. So, some of the things that had been discussed and looking at number of people per residence and required parking and noise levels and curfews on time, and like all make a lot of sense. But, I would underscore the importance of that onsite professional management in a local area to help resolve a lot of those problems, keep those connections with the neighbors and make it as Mr. Bourdon said, not just a needed use, but also a compatible use because I believe that is important as well. Thank you very much.

Ms. Owens: Good afternoon. My name is Chris Owens, I have been a resident of Virginia Beach all of my adult life, and I own short-term rentals and they have been grandfathered. I hear a lot of people talking about now versus our future. We want our kids to be able to come back to Virginia Beach to bring their friends and I see Virginia Beach as being a vibrant city, not an old fashioned city. People have been doing short-term rentals for 50 years in other major cities. We want to bring visitors, our guests here to enjoy our city, and as a licensed real estate agent I have people who come here and stay three days, look for a house and eventually move here. So, I want us to think forward and progressively and not stagnant and let Virginia Beach grow and be the city that will be proud of and that our children will be able to come home to and be proud of. And, let us leave our inheritance of forward thinking for our children and ourselves. Thank you.

Ms.(Inaudible): Good evening Council Person, Oliver and Planning Commission Members, thank you for being here for the last five years and listening to us on the short-term rental event. I live in Sandbridge, I love short-term rentals, I moved there because I like them and I am going to live the rest of my life because I like them. Rather, I have one or not, I still like where I live. I like watching the families come in and out and enjoy where they are every year. They are not the ones causing our problems in Sandbridge. It is their people that come down for beach going, they do not have a place to park, they do not have a place to go the bathroom. They park everywhere they want to park and they are the ones causing most of the issues where we live. And, at the beach, I do not think short-term rentals causing all the shootings and everything going on every night. I think as people come in from local areas doing this, we love our short-term market and we would like to keep it that way. And, I am opposed to any other additional ordinances. Thank you.

Ms. Fekety: Good evening. Thanks for the opportunity to speak this evening. My name is Elaine Fekety and I have lived in Sandbridge for 25 years. I thought about dusting off an old speech because I have been through this circus tent with you guys for the last five years for the new guys, but I am just going to get straight to the point. A lot of you have been asking tonight how did we even get to this point again. You have been tasked to review the short-term rental penalties for

violations without seeing how the existing ordinances even holds up. And, I am speaking only to the general issues regarding the penalties, what happens in Old Beach is none of my business even though that feeling is not reciprocated. You are being asked to do this quite simply because Mrs. Henley is upset that she cannot get a consensus on Council to overregulate short-term rentals into the ground, so, she has punted it back to you. To be clear, the current short-term rental ordinance was voted on in January 2019. But, it did not go into effect until last November. The first meeting in February at City Council, Mrs. Henley is already asking for lessons learned what can we do to fix things. What did you learn from November to February, do you all have any data. Were there problems with the seasonal rentals from November to February, it makes no sense. It did not give time for homeowners and rental companies that instituted new guidelines and new practices to even see if they would work. 11 years ago, my husband and I began using our home as a short-term rental during summer weeks and holidays. So, it is our principle resident and we are short-term rental owners, we see both sides. We are not unique. So, how will adopting civil penalties for short-term rental versus a homeowner in our situation come into play, how will you monitor that. If my son is five minutes late getting the trash can off the street, I get a \$200 penalty, because during the summer I use it as a short-term rental. How would you even monitor that. So, basically, regarding the penalties, I feel it is important right now for you to discern if there really is a problem because we did not get a chance to see if there was a problem. If there is a problem, are there already remedies on the books and if there are, are they being enforced. Are current violators getting \$25 penalties now or is it going unchecked. A remedy that is already in place but not being enforced does not mean that additional remedies are needed. That is something I hope that you will keep in mind. If there is already noise violation ordinance on the books and whatnot, we need to bear that in mind. Make no mistake. Barbara Henley is thumbing her nose at you. And, every short-term rental you have already carefully vetted and recommended for approval, saying she will not vote in favor for any of them until you fix this mess. Please represent the interest of the citizens of Virginia Beach, not just Barbara's family and friends. Do not let her continue to let you be her bully pulpit. Thank you.

Ms. Oliver: Do we have anymore speakers? One more.

Mr. Hellstrom: My name is Anders Hellstrom, I have house in Sandbridge. I have lived in the city for over 50 years, grew up in Sandbridge, I know the feel of the neighborhoods, I have got friends that live up here in the North End and friends that live in Shadowlawn, Croatan. This is the nature of the city, right? We have had short-term rentals pretty much forever, in fact, when I was growing up in Sandbridge 90% of the houses were vacant year around, except for the one we lived in and it is just part of the city. People love coming down here. We sat through this for, I do not even remember, geez, I hope not five years, but three

years we have been doing this. And, I apologize to the people that are just coming in late to the scene because they were not involved during that process. But, we hashed all this out and here we are. I hate to say this, but I do feel this. I feel like Barbara Henley and the big hoteliers at the Oceanfront are behind a big push. And, when I look at a large piece of what has been written, it is very ambiguous as to what is considered a nice parking lot, or what is considered culturally acceptable for my neighborhood. I mean, who knows who is going to move in there, who knows who is going to start making the decisions for that. I own my property ,I have the right to rent my property. We have been through this, if you cannot put some real meat behind the regulations that are already in place. I mean, when I am looking at the new regulations, it is like you are rehashing the same stuff. And, there is even a statement at the end of one section where it says, it is a viable thing that we really need after trashing, like the ability for people to even rent the property. So, anyways, I just really do feel like, we go through stages in the city where we get regulations and then big business and people like Barbara Henley and whoever she can rally behind her, get out there and start working the back channels and you are right sir. They are in the process of breaking down everything that we have done. I do not see how we are sitting here again in eight months or whatever it was when this all went in September. I mean, it is just ridiculous. I am outraged. I am against all of it.

Ms. Oliver: Thank you very much. Are there anymore speakers for this evening? Alright. But, I just want to thank everybody, truly thank everybody for coming down and giving us the opportunity to hear what your thoughts and opinions are on the short-term rental regulations. We really appreciate you doing this. And, I just want to remind everyone that you can provide comments to the Planning Commission via email at the address right there on the screen. And, additional information on the process and the ordinances can be found on the website listed as well. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the ordinances in August and we look forward to seeing you hopefully again and as always. Right now good night and thank you for coming. The meeting has been adjourned.

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