

We are extremely disappointed at the outcome of Tuesday night's City Council meeting regarding the regulations on short-term rentals, which essentially bans any new short-term rentals from operating within our community and left a great deal of confusion and uncertainty for the many responsible operators of Virginia Beach.

The passed regulations offer no solutions to the issues at hand such as enforcement and compliance and will cause more headaches for City staff, homeowners and neighbors. Without any real measures in place surrounding enforcement and compliance, the general public is being given a false sense of security and a promise that will ultimately not be kept. The City has also failed to supply a plan of how a 75% neighborhood overlay agreement would be implemented. Without sufficient data and a clear understanding of all of the components of the situation, it is impossible to pass legislation that truly serves the Virginia Beach community.

On behalf of the Virginia Beach Short-Term Rental Alliance, we would like to thank councilmembers Rouse, Wooten, Wilson and Mayor Dyer for voting to continue the dialogue further so that a fair and equitable ordinance that serves the full community could be reached.

We would also like to present the idea to City Council to create a task force to further examine the role Short-Term Rentals play within our community and to find feasible tactics to implement enforcement guidelines and the newly adopted 75% community agreement rule. We have presented reasonable, well-thought out solutions in the past and welcome the opportunity to work with the City and others from the opposing viewpoint to provide suggestions that will benefit the greater Virginia Beach community and all who visit.

Thank you,

The Virginia Beach Short-Term Rental Alliance  
vbstra@rentresponsibly.org

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The Virginia Beach STRA is the collective voice of the VAB short-term rental community. We are residents, hosts, local businesses, and other advocates who understand and protect the rights of homeowners to responsibly rent their properties, who believe in fair and reasonable regulations of short-term rentals, and who depend on the value that private hosting brings to the Virginia Beach economy.