

**WRITTEN
PUBLIC
COMMENT**

**CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL
MEETING**

DECEMBER 9, 2020

From: jack Gilles [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 12:59 PM
To: City Clerk Mail
Subject: Homeowner: La Quinta

EXTERNAL: This message originated outside of the City of La Quinta. Please use proper judgement and caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information.

Dear City Council La Quinta,

As a homeowner, an “essential employee”, and somebody that takes the COVID crisis very seriously from a public health and an economic sense, I urge you to not be further restrictive than the current state guidelines. I fear that in an effort to be helpful in combatting the pandemic the city council may inadvertently worsen its affects.

We have learned a lot about the nature of COVID 19 since this past winter and spring. We understand the overwhelmingly the risks associated with transfer are via direct, sustained, person to person transfer. Not from surface material – as feared in early 2020. Likewise, we understand that by wearing masks and adhering to social distance guidelines, we can greatly reduce the impact of the pandemic as the world races towards a vaccine.

Short term rentals, particular as they relate to in-state travel do not need to be an obstacle to flattening the curve. On the contrary they can be an important tool in the fight. For many people, that now find themselves working remote, short term rentals provide the opportunity to leave a more populated urban area for a time and space in a more private and safe setting for their families and/or “bubble”.

From an economic perspective, this continues to help keep people employed. Cleaners, handymen, and restaurants that will rely on take-out orders. In other words, the populations of people that are the most vulnerable economically. These people are my peers. We do not have large savings and need to work to provide a living for their families. We are likewise not asking for time away.

There are ways to protect the health of people with-out shutting down short term rentals all together. In La Quinta, we have been doing this responsibly since May. We can continue to enforce social distancing and masks. We can continue to clean and space out tenants and stays in a responsible manner. We can continue to ensure that out of state and higher risk travelers are quarantining.

What we cannot do is overcome a complete shut down and expect to pay our bills, keep our homes, and our small business open.

I understand the council is trying to do the right thing. I only ask of you that in your haste to help, please, do not make things worse.

Sincerely,

Jack Gilles
[REDACTED]

La Quinta, Ca 92253

From: John Hastie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 10:53 AM
To: City Clerk Mail
Subject: Written Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

EXTERNAL: This message originated outside of the City of La Quinta. Please use proper judgement and caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information.

1) Full Name

John Hastie

2) City of Residence

La Quinta

3) Phone Number

[REDACTED]

4) Public Comment or Agenda Item Number

Public Comment

5) Subject

Interpretation of the Order from the CA Dept of Public health

6) Written Comments

Special Meeting 12/09/2020

Good evening Mayor & Council Members,

We are asking that the City of La Quinta follow the rules of the recent Regional Stay At Home Order issued on 12/03/2020 (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/12.3.20-Stay-at-Home-Order-ICU-Scenario.pdf>) and not further restrict the order as it pertains to “hotels or lodging” as STVRs are not explicitly called out in the order. The sections pertaining lodging are specifically 2 (a) (h) and 3 which state the following:

2. CDPH will evaluate the adult ICU bed capacity for each Region and identify on [covid19.ca.gov](https://www.covid19.ca.gov) any Regions for which that capacity is less than 15%. When that capacity is less than 15%, the following terms (the Terms of this Order) will apply.

a. All gatherings with members of other households are prohibited in the Region except as expressly permitted herein.

h. Nothing in this Order prevents any number of persons from the same household from leaving their residence, lodging, or temporary accommodation, as long as they do not engage in any interaction with (or otherwise gather with) any number of persons from any other household, except as specifically permitted herein.

i. Terms (a) and (b) of this section do not apply to persons experiencing homelessness.

3. Except as otherwise required by law, no hotel or lodging entity in California shall accept or honor out of state reservations for non-essential travel, unless the reservation is for at least the minimum time period required for quarantine and the persons identified in the reservation will quarantine in the hotel or lodging entity until after that time period has expired.

We feel that the order outlined above is sufficient as it will provide protection to our community from out of state travel (without proper quarantine periods) but still allows small businesses (STRs, local businesses) an opportunity to operate at less than full capacity to try to survive.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

VRON-LQ Directors and Officers

www.vronlq.org

From: JIpratte [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 10:09 AM
To: City Clerk Mail
Subject: December 9 council meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

** EXTERNAL: This message originated outside of the City of La Quinta. Please use proper judgement and caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information. **

We would like to comment on STVRs during our emergency lockdown.

A large STVR is adjacent to our home in PGAW. It is a constant source of misery.

We are especially concerned if it houses renters during this dangerous time.

Within the last few weeks we have come into UNWANTED contact with 2 separate renters. New renters arrive one to three times a week, every week. Turnover in this house is most typically within hours of check out/checkin.

We feel especially vulnerable and should NOT need to be unnecessarily at risk during this critical time.

Janice Pratte and Larry

From: Marie Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 5:19 PM
To: City Clerk Mail
Subject: Stvr shutdown

EXTERNAL: This message originated outside of the City of La Quinta. Please use proper judgement and caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information.

Please uphold the shut down. It should be kept in place until after January 1. I understand the frustration but these “guests” come shop in our stores and being the majority that come to our neighborhood are from LA, OC and San Diego all which have high COVID-19 numbers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Craig and Marie Thompson
La Quinta residents
[REDACTED]

From: Linda Van Pelt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:11 PM
To: City Clerk Mail
Subject: Short term rentals

** EXTERNAL: This message originated outside of the City of La Quinta. Please use proper judgement and caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information. **

Please don't shut down, I have a rental in a La Quinta resort and I had to close for three months, our biggest income month this will be devastating for my income. I might have to sell



I understand that Residential neighborhoods are upset being nextdoor but condos in a resort shouldn't be affected. Please don't close short term rentals!!!

Linda Van Pelt
La Quinta tennis villa owner and resident.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2020 12:10 PM
To: City Clerk Mail
Cc: Sharon
Subject: Please do not over react

EXTERNAL: This message originated outside of the City of La Quinta. Please use proper judgement and caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information.

As a property owner in La Quinta and a long timer frequent visitor from the east coast, I implore you to continue to allow people who would like to find refuge in the desert during these crazy times to continue to do so. Given that it has become common place around the country for so many who are working from home to find warmer climates to work from, it seems counter intuitive to shut them off from the vacation rentals that can be done quite safely. I know these are trying times for a lot of people but further shut downs are not the answer and will only cause longer term harm to the businesses and travelers that the City of La Quinta relies on. Please vote no to further restrictions.

Best,

Michael Zieg
La Quinta Property Owner