

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** Robin Roberts <robin@mvadventures.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 2, 2022 7:56 AM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Housing taskforce: short-term rentals

Dear Petersburg Assembly -

Thank you for your diligent and caring work on behalf of our community!

I am writing to you regarding short-term rentals in our community, which are a topic of discussion under the issue of housing shortages. I'm concerned after seeing the new short-term rental restrictions that Sitka has recently enacted. I want to highlight some differences in short-term rentals that, if Petersburg were to consider any restrictions, require a more nuanced approach.

I have one licensed Airbnb "suite" (The Waterside) - a very small independent 1-bedroom apartment that's part of our house (with its own entrance). It's suitable for two people for short stays - often just

3-5 days, sometimes 1-2 weeks in the summer tourist season. It is not suitable for longer stays due to its small size and parking limitations.

Primarily, the suite is busy during the tourist season, holidays, and for weddings or large events in the community. We also hosted the circuit court judge during his monthly visits, before he retired. That amount of business is almost enough to cover our mortgage, and we were able to purchase this home because of the additional income from the Airbnb suite.

I am very concerned about the lack of housing options in our community, both affordable and not. I get inquiries at least every month or two, asking about longer term possibilities, and I feel for these folks who are struggling to move here. We do, however, provide short-term housing for visitors who bring tourist dollars to our community - which has value to us all.

Thank you for keeping this in mind as you explore more ways to expand housing opportunities here - a community that we're proud to live in.

Robin Roberts  
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