

CCNA

Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations of Sarasota, Inc.
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To: City of Sarasota Commissioners
Marlon Brown, Manager, City of Sarasota
Steve Cover, Director of Planning, City of Sarasota
Neighborhood Leaders

From: Board of Directors
Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations of Sarasota

Topic: **Expansion of the Vacation Rental Ordinance to Inland Sarasota**

Chapter 34.5 was added to the Sarasota City Code back in May 2021. Its intent is “to ensure the City's residents the tranquility and peaceful enjoyment of their homes and their neighborhoods”. The issue was the misuse by owners in running vacation rentals. Against existing city code, single family residents were being run as a “hotel” or “boarding house”. The typical pattern was to rent to multiple families at the same time, each with their own contract and starting dates, and to allow guests to rent by the night.

Starting on the keys, those neighborhoods vigorously asked for help from the city as they were watching single family homes demolished and having 8 to 10 bedroom “single family” homes built in their place and run as a “hotel house”. City staff felt they did not have the tools to enforce the existing codes. The City Commission took up the cause and passed Ordinance 21-5353. Although there was discussion at that time of a citywide ordinance, the Commission through Staff recommendation chose to limit the ordinance to the barrier islands, knowing full well that there would come a time to address the entire city.

Two plus years later, virtually every city neighborhood is now experiencing the same misuse by vacation rental owners the keys experienced. With two years of enforcement experience the city has the tools and processes in place to address this citywide issue. Staffing may be an issue, but that is the for the City Manager and the Commissioners to evaluate.

The CCNA Board of Directors urges the City Commission to move forward with the implementation of the Chapter 34.5 Vacation Rentals citywide with priority and stand ready to assist in any way we can.

Richard Harris
President