



**COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM BARBARA BRY
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
DISTRICT 1
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: May 26, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer

FROM: Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry *Barbara Bry*

SUBJECT: Short-Term Vacation Rental Enforcement – Public Health Concern

San Diegans have collectively done their role in slowing the spread of the coronavirus in our region. Most residents are generally complying with the stay-at-home order and are practicing social distancing when they enjoy our parks and beaches.

As we know, enforcement of the Order issued by the County of San Diego Public Health Officer, Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H. has played a vital role in ensuring wide adherence and has contributed greatly to the progress we have made in combating COVID-19.

However, there has been a surprising lack of enforcement against occupants of illegal short-term vacation rentals across the City. Groups of people, without masks and without proper social distancing have been witnessed crowding homes in residential neighborhoods. We continue to receive complaints from residents of violations by tourists using these homes as short-term rentals. As you know, this is in addition to the violation of the San Diego Municipal Code which prohibits short-term rentals in residential zones.

Therefore, I respectfully request you increase enforcement to crack down on this reckless behavior that endangers our public health and hinders our progress to a swift recovery.

During a San Diego County Coronavirus Update, Public Health Officer Dr. Wilma Wooten explicitly addressed the use of short-term vacation rentals as only lawful if they are being used to house essential workers. Instead, the reality is that illegal short-term vacation rentals are being rented out to large groups of tourists or locals looking for somewhere to gather. These large groups are not adhering to mandates requiring masks and social distancing.

The County has made it clear that allowing groups to gather at short-term vacation rentals is a threat to our public health. Failure to ensure compliance jeopardizes our City's number one priority to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of our constituents.

Your swift action may help save lives. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

cc: Aimee Faucett, Chief of Staff
Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliot
Gerry Braun, Office of City Attorney Chief of Staff
Kris Michell, Chief Operating Officer
Jessica Lawrence, Director of Policy and Council Affairs