AGENDA

LARGO CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION

4:00 PM
November 13, 2018
Community Room

A. Business Spotlight
   1. I Love Kickboxing – Karisa Rojas-Norton

B. Presentations
   2. Sign Regulation Alternatives – Carol Stricklin
   3. Code Enforcement Division Update – Carol Stricklin, Tracey Schofield
   4. Regulation Of Short Term Vacation Rentals – Nikki Day
   5. Single-Use Plastics Presentation – Laura Thomas

C. Board/Committee Reports:
   Forward Pinellas – Vice Mayor Smith
   Homeless Leadership Board – Commissioner Holck
   North Pinellas Cultural Alliance – Commissioner Robinson
   Suncoast League of Cities – Commissioner Carroll
   Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority – Commissioner Fenger
   Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council – Mayor Brown
   Area Agency on Aging – Commissioner Fenger

Items from Vice Mayor Smith, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Holmes, Commissioner Holck, Commissioner Fenger, Mayor Brown, City Manager Schubert, Action Items
I Love Kickboxing is a fitness kickboxing studio that brings professional fighter workouts and fitness philosophies together to make them fun and accessible to the masses. The company was founded in 2009 as an alternative to “big box” gyms to bring High Intensity Interval workouts followed by short periods of rest for a total body workout. Their newest studio is located at 615 Missouri Avenue North on the west side of Missouri, between Commerce Drive North and Commerce Drive South. Owners Lindsie Wolter and Jeff Vizethann selected Largo as their franchise region because there was no I Love Kickboxing in the city and they saw a need for a high quality kickboxing fitness facility. Their new facility is modern and minimalist and designed to make customers feel energized.

The group classes offered are different from those typically offered at regular gyms because the classes are taught by highly trained professional instructors and coaches. Their members come in all experience levels, shapes, ages and sizes. A kickboxing class is 60 minutes long and can have anywhere up to 50 people per class. Classes are offered seven days a week.

Although the business is newly opened, the owners look forward to getting more involved in the Largo community. The owners live locally in Pinellas County and have joined the Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce and have participated in the Women's Leadership committee and in the Business Showcase. Visit ilovekickboxing.com for more information.
At the September 11, 2018 Work Session, staff presented an update regarding the amortization of non-conforming signs (agenda memo attached). The City Commission discussed the amortization requirements contained in the Comprehensive Development Code (CDC) and requested that staff develop alternatives for sign regulation and provide additional information regarding non-conforming signs and signs that have come into compliance. Staff has conducted additional research and analysis and worked with the City Attorney to develop sign regulation alternatives.

Additional analysis was performed regarding the inventory of remaining free-standing signs that was originally compiled in 2014. After elimination of duplication in the inventory, it was determined that there may be as many as 640 non-conforming free-standing signs, which includes pole signs and others that may be non-conforming due to their height and size; 23 of these signs are subject to standards applicable only to properties along US 19 and are yet to be determined if they comply with the maximum height and size standard. At the time of enforcement actual height and size will be field verified in collaboration with the sign owners. These signs are located on 567 individual properties; 451 of which are commercial properties. The remaining inventory are located on institutional or residential properties. Since 2007, 162 signs were documented as removed and/or converted to monument signs, and a total 236 new monument signs have been permitted. During the period that incentives were offered, seven properties utilized the program for bonus sign area, and another seven took advantage of the $200 credit towards permit fees.

The reasons for non-conforming, free-standing signs being removed include the following:

(Continued on Page 2)
• Removal due to vacancy. When a commercial property becomes vacant, the sign on the property is considered to be abandoned. The property owner is given a 90 day notice to have a business with a valid Business Tax Receipt operating at the property, or the sign must be removed.

• Removal due to damage - When a sign is determined to be damaged, it must either be repaired (if the cost to restore the damaged sign is 25% or less of replacement cost of a conforming sign) or removed if not repaired within 90 days. For example, 66 signs were damaged during Hurricane Irma. Of those signs, 42 signs were repaired within the 90 day timeframe, and 24 were referred to the Special Magistrate and ordered to be removed. It should be noted that the provision allowing for repair of a sign was added to the CDC in March 2015. Prior to that time, any damaged sign that required a permit for repair had to be removed.

• Redevelopment - Properties that undergo full scale site plan review and receive a development order are required to bring all aspects of a site into compliance, including signage. Properties such as Tri-City Plaza, the new Walmart on Missouri, and many other sites have installed conforming monument signs as the result of redevelopment.

Other information requested by the City Commission is as follows. The number of business establishments in Largo in 2018 is 3,127 according to ESRI data. The City Commission also requested information regarding the number of other non-conforming signs in the City which are not free-standing signs. At this time, staff has not yet performed an inventory of all other signage in the City. If the City Commission wishes to proceed with the amortization process, it is staff's intent to evaluate how to approach other types of non-conforming signs, such as wall signs that are non-conforming for reasons such as sign area or height. Staff would anticipate bringing information about this issue back to the City Commission at a Work Session in late 2019.

**Sign Alternatives**

Community Development staff have worked with the City Attorney to develop alternative approaches, as described in the attached Sign Alternatives Table. Staff will present these alternatives at the Work Session and request direction as to how to proceed. Alternative #4, to remove the amortization period and require removal of non-conforming signs with code changes to accelerate sign removal, includes sub-alternatives 4a though 4f with options for changes to the CDC.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Alternative</th>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
<th>Staff Recommendation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Keep non-conforming sign amortization deadline*</td>
<td>• Will provide certainty for the business community</td>
<td>• Financial impact to business and property owners</td>
<td>Defer to City Commission</td>
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<td>• Fulfill original legislative intent</td>
<td>• Will require additional staff time and resources</td>
<td>*Demolition or permit fee waiver will require payment in lieu. Florida Statutes prevent outright waiver</td>
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<td>• Must also address other types of non-conforming signs</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Extend amortization period</td>
<td>Defers required removal while additional signs are removed through redevelopment and voluntary removal</td>
<td>Creates uncertainty in community as to legislative intent</td>
<td>Do not pursue</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Remove amortization period and requirement to remove non-conforming signs by date certain with no other code changes</td>
<td>Creates certainty in community as to legislative intent</td>
<td>Slower process to improve community appearance through redevelopment and voluntary removal</td>
<td>Defer to City Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Remove amortization period and requirement to remove non-conforming signs by date certain with code changes to accelerate sign removal</td>
<td>Creates certainty in community as to legislative intent</td>
<td>Slower process to improve community appearance through redevelopment and voluntary removal</td>
<td>Defer to City Commission</td>
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<td>4a.</td>
<td>Repeal repair provision (allows permit to repair sign if repair cost is 25% or less of replacement value)</td>
<td>• Will require removal of any damaged sign requiring permit to repair</td>
<td>Financial impact to property owners to remove signs that could be repaired</td>
<td>Amend CDC to repeal repair provision</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Encourage property owners to invest in new signage in lieu of older, non-conforming signs</td>
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<td>4b.</td>
<td>Enhanced Enforcement of Damaged Sign Provisions - CDC amendment to adopt minimum maintenance standards</td>
<td>• Will require removal or repair of signs in poor condition</td>
<td>Will require additional staff time and resources</td>
<td>Develop a proposal for City Commission review</td>
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<td>• Improve appearance of community</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Modify Vacant, Abandoned Sign standards to reduce 90 day notification period</td>
<td>Will accelerate removal of non-conforming signs</td>
<td>Financial impact to property owners to remove signs</td>
<td>• Amend CDC to reduce notification period to 30 days • Add provisions to allow vacant/ conforming signs to remain with cover/blank face</td>
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<td>4d.</td>
<td>Modify Vacant, Abandoned Sign standards to require removal of &quot;substantially vacant&quot; signs for multi-tenant properties</td>
<td>Will accelerate removal of non-conforming signs that are partially vacant</td>
<td>Financial impact to property owners to remove signs</td>
<td>• Amend CDC to require removal of signs that have sign face that is 60% or more vacant</td>
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<td>4e.</td>
<td>Require non-conforming sign removal at time of new business</td>
<td>Will accelerate removal of non-conforming signs</td>
<td>• Difficult to administer/enforce • May conflict with lease provisions • Financial impact to new businesses • Legal concerns</td>
<td>Do not pursue</td>
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<td>4f.</td>
<td>Require non-conforming sign removal with Small Scale approvals</td>
<td>Will accelerate removal of non-conforming signs</td>
<td>• Contrary to intent of Small Scale review to provide flexible process • May dissuade smaller projects • Legal concerns</td>
<td>Do not pursue</td>
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The City of Largo sign code underwent a major revision in 2007 to improve the aesthetic appearance of the City by adopting standards to require all new free-standing signs to be monument signs. Existing signs that did not meet the new standards became non-conforming, but were allowed to remain through an amortization period that ends on June 5, 2019. This memorandum will provide a status update of the successful efforts to date to remove non-conforming signs, and will outline the steps that Community Development will take to encourage the remaining properties to come into compliance as the amortization period comes to an end.

Over the past 11 years, reduction in the number of non-conforming signs has been achieved with the removal and replacement of non-conforming signs with monument signs. The transformation of the City’s major corridors through removal of visual clutter has been noticeable as the City redevelops and businesses reinvest in their properties.

The goal of Community Development is to continue efforts for voluntary compliance through outreach, education, and incentives. Compliance efforts will initially be targeted at the approximately 645 properties and businesses with existing, non-conforming pole signs. This memorandum will describe the steps staff will take to achieve voluntary compliance through sign removal and, if necessary, enforcement action through the Special Magistrate. Staff is also proposing an incentive in the form of reduced or waived demolition permit fees and expedited processing of demolition permits.

(Continued on Page 2)
History

Ordinance No. 2007-27, adopted in June 2007, created a ten (10) year amortization period for the removal of non-conforming signs, ending in June 2017. The revised sign code also provided standards for the size, height and location of new monument signs which replaced pole signs as the type of free standing signs allowed under the sign code. For several years, property owners have been notified of the changes to the sign code and the effect of the amortization period on signs on their property by means of a notice included in business tax receipt renewal notices.

A tiered incentive program was created to encourage businesses to replace pole signs with monument signs (Ordinance No. 2012-52, adopted September 4, 2012). This program operated for a four (4) year period between October, 2012 and September, 2016 and offered a credit against permit fees (first year of the program) and a graduated bonus for allowable sign area for either a new monument sign or wall signs (all four (4) years of the program).

Staff conducted an inventory of existing pole signs in early 2014 and presented this information at a City Commission Work Session in March, 2014. Discussion with the City Commission at this and a subsequent Work Session led to the following:

- The amortization period was extended by the City Commission until June 2019 (Ordinance No. 2014-72) to allow time for a marketing program and other incentives to be implemented;
- An annexation incentive provision was included in Ordinance No. 2014-72 to allow businesses that annex into the City near the original amortization date of June 5, 2017 a full five-year term for compliance;
- A marketing program was created to educate businesses about the sign requirements in order to encourage early, voluntary compliance (“Refine the Sign”). The program included pamphlets and other promotional materials, mailers to businesses and affected property owners, a workshop sponsored by the Mid Pinellas Chamber of Commerce and informational material on the City website.

Finally, in March, 2015, the City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 2015-12, which created a threshold for the repair of damaged nonconforming signs (including pole signs). This provision allowed for the repair of a damaged, nonconforming sign up to 25% of the replacement value of a new, conforming sign. If the repair cost is greater than 25%, or is not accomplished within 90 days of written notification from the City, then the sign must be replaced with a conforming sign. If the nonconforming sign is a pole sign, then it must be replaced with a conforming monument sign if a freestanding sign is desired.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Division will play a crucial role in outreach efforts to assist businesses in understanding the City’s regulations, and navigating the permitting process, if needed. Staff will continue to provide regular updates to the Mid Pinellas Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee. The last update was provided in May 2018. The Economic Development staff also administers the incentive program for sign replacement in the West Bay Drive Community Redevelopment District. This incentive provides all property owners or businesses who are bringing their signs into conformance a payment of $1,000 to help off-set the costs associated with the removal and replacement of the new signage.

Planning

An inventory completed in 2014 determined that there were 753 pole signs within the City limits and that 49 pole signs had been permitted for conversion to monument signs. The Planning Division recently conducted a 2018 inventory and identified 645 remaining non-conforming pole signs. The reduction in non-conforming signs has been a result of new development orders, voluntary replacement, and removal of abandoned and damaged signs. It should be noted that the inventory of pole signs has increased due to annexation of properties, which are subject to the additional five year extension of the amortization period.

Building upon past marketing programs, an informational postcard will be mailed in October 2018 and in March 2019 to the property owners and property address of properties with non-conforming pole signs advising them of the upcoming amortization deadline. The postcard will also be sent to sign companies doing business in the City of Largo. The Planner on Call and Planning staff will be available to assist property owners in planning for replacement signage for their sites.

Through the site plan review process, all properties proposing to redevelop or expand existing uses are required to bring all non-conforming signs into compliance. The Comprehensive Development Code (CDC) requires a Master Sign Plan for commercial site plans prior to issuance of a Development Order to ensure sites with multiple signs are not exceeding their maximum aggregate signage amount. Also, the CDC provides an Alternate Master Sign Plan option for large multi-building/tenant campuses that meet certain requirements to provide for flexibility for sign size, height and placement that corresponds with the identification needs of larger developments typically located along high traffic corridors and in activity centers.
Building
Compliance with the sign ordinance requires a building permit for demolition and removal of the non-conforming sign. Replacement with a conforming sign is not required for compliance. New sign construction will be permitted separately. The Building Division will provide an information sheet for sign demolition outlining the process to obtain a permit for sign removal and the requirements for demolition and inspection. In order to provide an incentive for properties to obtain the appropriate demolition permit, staff is requesting City Commission direction to create a partial reduction of the cost of demolition permits for sign removal prior to June 5, 2019. The present cost of a demolition permit is $137.40. Staff is recommending reducing the permit fee for a permit to demolish a non-electrical non-conforming sign to a flat fee of $50 including the state surcharges, or $75, if an electrical inspection is required. In addition, staff will expedite the processing of non-conforming sign demolition permits by issuing the demolition permit to a licensed general contractor within two business days with only a Building Division review.

Code Enforcement
Code Enforcement's primary approach is one of voluntary compliance through education. Following the mailing of the information postcard to property owners, Code staff will personally visit all locations to speak with business owners about the upcoming responsibilities and opportunities for compliance.

Once the amortization period expires, Code Enforcement will determine which properties are in violation for not having removed the non-conforming pole signs. These property owners will be issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) with 30 day time frame to obtain a demolition permit and remove the non-conforming sign. Those property owners who fail to comply with the NOV will have their case set and heard by the Special Magistrate. It is anticipated that this process will occur over the period of several months, depending on the number of non-conforming signs that remain.

Future Activities
Following the compliance efforts targeted at non-conforming pole signs, staff will evaluate how to approach other types of non-conforming signs, such as wall signs or other free-standing signs that are non-conforming for reasons such as sign area or height. Staff anticipates bringing information about this issue back to the City Commission at a Work Session in late 2019.
The City of Largo Code Enforcement Division was formally created in the FY 2018 budget and has been working hard for the past year to become more efficient in an effort to better serve and keep safe the citizens of Largo. The Code Enforcement Division consists of:

One (1) new Code Enforcement Manager (hired in April 2018), one (1) Chief Code Enforcement Officer, four (4) Code Enforcement Officers, one (1) Code Compliance Officer (Handles all tree and landscaping related code and site development issues) and two (2) Board Support Specialists (Code Enforcement Board and Special Magistrate).

Last year the Code Enforcement Division:
* Opened 2,357 new cases.
* Took 194 of those cases before the Code Enforcement Board (98) or Special Magistrate (96).
* Achieved a 92% voluntary compliance rate for the year for the Division.

In the first quarter of FY 2018 the Code Enforcement Division assisted in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma with damage assessment which generated hundreds of structure, tree, and damaged sign investigations. Besides normal duties the Division also conducted a number of special project cases that addressed bus stop advertisement and donation bin registrations. The Division partnered with other City departments and citizens for a Southwest neighborhood cleanup. Lastly, the Code Enforcement Division participated in a Community Care event when we assisted a disabled resident who had code violations by planting trees, pulling weeds, and mowing her grass.

Continued on Page 2
In the second half of the year, the Division placed an emphasis on training, both internally and externally with a focus on cross-training the officers in the areas of building inspections, permitting, and arborist related issues. The goal of the training is to better educate the team on all the other aspects of the City functions that relate directly or indirectly to the Code Enforcement mission. The Division is developing a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s) manual and a new hire training checklist to have consistency in work product.

In 2019, the Division is focusing on;

1) Changing work processes in an effort to respond sooner to citizen complaints.
2) Implementing the new agenda software and the lien assessment program to improve these processes.
3) Identifying and responding proactively to any derelict properties using all resources available.

As we move forward it is important to take stock of what has been accomplished in the past, the services provided, how we provide services, and what can be done better. The job of a Code Enforcement Officer can be a difficult one but there are things that can be done to mitigate this. A new training philosophy will help build confidence in the officers that what they are saying and doing is correct, however, that is only one piece of the puzzle. How the officers approach their assignments is just as important. An emphasis will be placed on citizen contact, not only with the citizen who makes the complaint but also with the citizen who has the issue that needs to be corrected. Having a face to face, shake your hand type of contact not only helps obtain voluntary compliance more often, it also builds relationships with citizens that over time may reduce future violations.

To help with this new approach the Code Enforcement Division will be implementing several new branding objectives to help reach our citizens. This includes a social media presence, participation in more City events, new code related handout materials, door hangers and a change in uniform color and equipment.

Lastly, in an effort to not only change the external perception of Code Enforcement but also an internal one, we are recommending to the City Commission a name change. The name “Code Enforcement” denotes a more aggressive approach to mostly minor violations. In following with a more open approach to code violations we are recommending that our name be changed to the “Community Standards Division”. The name “Community” has many meanings but what it always means is that a group, in this case the citizens, businesses and the City have come together as one. It is reflective of both the department name, (Community Development) and the City’s brand as “Your Community of Choice”. The word “Standard” reflects shared values the community has towards its safety and appearance. Together they form a name that helps present what the Division is striving to accomplish without the aggressiveness of the past.
TITLE:

REGULATION OF SHORT TERM VACATION RENTALS

The City Commission has requested a workshop to discuss what the City can regulate with regard to short term rentals in light of the state preemption.

State preemption of vacation rentals:

Local laws, ordinances, or regulations may not prohibit vacation rentals or regulate the duration or frequency of their rental. § 509.032(7)(b), Fla. Stat.

What is a “vacation rental”?

Any condo, single-family home, or multi-family home with a maximum of four units which is rented to guests more than three times in a calendar year for periods of less than 30 days or one calendar month (whichever is less), or which is advertised or held out to the public as a place regularly rented to guests. §§ 509.242(1)(c); 509.013(4)(a)1., Fla. Stat.

In light of the preemption, what can the City regulate?

So long as the regulation does not have the effect of prohibiting or regulating the duration or frequency of the vacation rental, then it would be permissible despite the preemption.

(continued on page 2)
Examples of permissible local government regulations:

1. Maximum occupancy limits
2. Noise and parking requirements for vacation rentals specifically
3. Minimum life/safety requirements
4. Requiring registration with the City
5. Requiring a local "Designated Responsible Party," i.e. property manager
6. Requiring a Business Tax Receipt
7. Requiring certificate of registration from the Florida Department of Revenue for collecting and remitting tourist development taxes, sales surtaxes, and transient rental taxes
8. Requiring a license as transient public lodging establishment from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation
9. Requiring affidavits of compliance with city codes and ordinances and other state and federal laws

Examples of impermissible local government regulations:

1. Distance separation requirements between vacation rentals
2. Limiting the number of vacation rentals within the City
3. Any regulations which would have the effect of prohibiting vacation rentals where residential uses are otherwise allowed

If there is any ambiguity as to whether the ordinance runs afoul of the preemption, the preemption will be favored over the ordinance. Metropolitan Dade Cty. v. Chase Federal Housing Corp., 737 So. 2d 494, 504 (Fla. 1999).

Are there any good examples of ordinances from other communities with permissible regulations?

Several local governments within the state have enacted ordinances regulating vacation rentals without prohibiting such rentals or regulating the duration or frequency of rentals. Attached are two examples, the City of Indian Rocks Beach Ordinance No. 2018-01 and Flagler County Ordinance No. 2015-01.

The City of Indian Rocks Beach recently passed Ordinance No. 2018-01, which requires that each vacation rental obtain a local business tax receipt and that any advertisements include the business tax receipt number, inspections of the property to ensure compliance with City and life safety codes, a sworn statement that the property is in compliance with all applicable City Codes, and for each vacation rental to be posted with vital local information including contact information for a "Designated Responsible Party," which may be the owner, or any person 18 years of age or older designated by the owner (may be a property management company) tasked with responding to requests for inspections, complaints, and other problems relating to or emanating from the vacation rental, be available at the posted landline or mobile telephone number 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and capable of directly responding, or directing a designated agent to directly respond to and resolve any issues or concerns raised by the city or law enforcement officials during rental periods, and otherwise monitor the vacation rental at least once a week to assure continued compliance with city codes.

Furthermore, Flagler County Ordinance No. 2015-01, which contains many similar requirements including business tax receipts and a local "Designated Responsible Party," has been upheld by Florida courts. See, 30 Cinnamon Beach Way, LLC v. Flagler County, 2015-CA-167 (Fla. 7th Cir. Ct. June 1, 2015), aff'd, 183 So. 3d 373 (Fla. 5th DCA 2016) (per curiam). Additionally, the Florida Attorney General has noted these as examples of permissible regulations. AGO 2014-09; See, Fla. S.S. Comm. Affairs, discussion of SB 356, dated February 4, 2014.

Please note that while the regulations discussed above appear to be outside of the preemption, the majority of Florida appellate courts have yet to weigh in on the validity of such ordinances.
CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
ORDINANCE NO. 2018-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA, INCORPORATING RECITALS AS FINDINGS OF FACT; AMENDING CHAPTER 110 OF THE CITY’S LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO ADD ARTICLE IX – “SHORT TERM VACATION RENTALS”; ADDING SECTION 110-840 ESTABLISHING APPLICABILITY; ADDING SECTION 110-841 ESTABLISHING DEFINITIONS; ADDING SECTION 110-842 ESTABLISHING MINIMUM REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT TERM VACATION RENTALS; ADDING SECTION 110-843 ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR THE OPERATION OF SHORT TERM RENTALS; ADDING SECTION 110-844 ESTABLISHING THE REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES OF DESIGNATED RESPONSIBLE PARTIES; ADDING SECTION 110-845 ESTABLISHING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR RENTAL USE AGREEMENTS; ADDING SECTION 110-846 CONCERNING REQUIRED POSTINGS ON SHORT TERM VACATION RENTALS; ADDING SECTION 110-847 ESTABLISHING VIOLATIONS; ADDING SECTION 110-848 ESTABLISHING THE REMEDIES, PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ARTICLE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND REVISION OF SCRIVENER’S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR FULL FORCE AND EFFECT OF ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, prior to 2011 Florida’s local governments freely regulated local land use issues and decisions under the Home Rule authority granted them by the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Florida Legislature enacted House Bill 883 (Florida Chapter 2011-119, Laws of Florida) (“HB 883”) which preempted the local regulation of a specific land use commonly called short term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, HB 883 prevented local communities from enacting new regulations necessary to address any consequential or negative impacts caused by short-term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, following the enactment of HB 883 the City of Indian Rocks Beach (the “City”) adopted Ordinance 2011-03, modifying its ordinances concerning the regulation of short term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, a little more than a year later the City adopted Ordinance 2012-08, further amending its restrictions regarding short term rentals; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Florida Legislature enacted Senate Bill 356 (Florida Chapter 2014-71, Laws of Florida) (“SB 356”) which rescinded HB 883’s preemption on local regulation of short term vacation rentals, but provided that local laws, ordinances or regulations adopted after June 1, 2011 may not prohibit short term vacation rentals or regulate the duration or frequency of rental of vacation rentals; and
WHEREAS, SB 356 returned some local control back to municipalities to mitigate the effects of short term vacation rentals in an attempt to make them safer, more compatible with existing neighborhood regulations, and accountable for their proper operation; and

WHEREAS, SB 356 does not allow local governments to prohibit short term vacation rentals in any community or zoning district; and

WHEREAS, single-family residential neighborhoods and their required infrastructure are generally designed to accommodate typical single-family residential homes with two (2) or (3) persons per household, on average; and

WHEREAS, local governments apply design standards tailored for their roads, driveways, emergency services planning, public shelters, solid waste collection, utilities, buffers, and are also tailored in assessing their infrastructure impacts; and

WHEREAS, short-term vacation rental occupants, due to the transient nature of their occupancy, are unfamiliar with local hurricane evacuation plans, the location of fire extinguishers, residence exit routes, pool and home safety features, and other similar safety measures that would ordinarily be provided to guests in traditional lodging establishments; and

WHEREAS, the occupants of short-term vacation rentals located within established neighborhoods can disturb the quiet enjoyment of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, traditional lodging establishments (hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts) are typically restricted to commercial and other non-residentially zoned areas where intensity of uses is separated from less busy and quieter residential uses; and

WHEREAS, many multi-unit condominium short-term vacation rentals have on-site property managers and employees or other contracted vendors that oversee the maintenance, upkeep, security and/or operation of the property on a frequent basis, unlike those short term rentals operating in single family homes; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the complaints or issues the Town of Indian Rocks Beach encounters concerning the operation of short term rentals pertain to the single and two-family neighborhoods east of Gulf Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, many local jurisdictions in the State of Florida, and across the nation have standards in place to minimize the negative impacts caused by short-term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Indian Rocks Beach desires short-term vacation rentals that are safe, fit in with the character of the community, provide positive impacts for tourism, increase property values, and achieve greater neighborhood compatibility; and

WHEREAS, these regulations are deemed necessary by the City of Indian Rocks Beach Commission to preserve the City's aesthetic and property values while also protecting the health, safety and general welfare of permanent residents, lot/parcel owners, investors and transient occupants and visitors alike; and
WHEREAS, these regulations are being promulgated by the City of Indian Rocks Beach Commission to supplement, but not to replace, any existing federal or state law or regulation, or other controls within establishes residential neighborhoods served by a homeowner or condominium association; and

WHEREAS, these regulations do not regulate duration or frequency of rentals, but are intended to address the frequent change of many transient occupants housed within a dwelling within an established residential neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the application of minimum life/safety requirements to short-term vacation rentals, along with other minimum standards and requirements concerning issues such as the designation of responsible parties ensures that transient occupants are provided with a similar level of protection as is required by the current statutes and codes for residences utilized as hotels, motels and other similar lodging establishments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

SECTION 1. RECITALS AND FINDINGS

A. The above Recitals are incorporated herein as Findings of Fact.

B. The City of Indian Rocks Beach Commission further finds as follows:

a. The proposed amendment will provide for the orderly development of the City of Indian Rock Beach and complies with applicable Comprehensive Plan goals, objectives and policies; and

b. The proposed amendment will serve to protect the health and safety of residents and transient visitors alike.

SECTION 2. That Part II, Code of Ordinances, Subpart B—Land Development Regulations, Chapter 110—Zoning, is hereby amended by adding Article IX, to read as follows:

Article IX—Short Term Vacation Rentals

DIVISION 1—GENERALLY

§ 110-840—Applicability. This section shall apply to all structures used for the purposes of short term vacation rentals as permissible commercial businesses when operating within the single family ("S"), medium density ("RM 2") and medium density duplex residential ("RM 1") districts.

§ 110-841—Definitions. The following terms as used on this Article are defined as set forth hereinafter:
**Bedroom:** The term "bedroom" shall have the same meaning as in § 381.0065 (2) (b), Florida Statutes. Throughout this chapter, the term "sleeping room" shall mean the same thing as a "bedroom."

**Designated Responsible Party:** The Owner, or any person eighteen (18) years of age or older designated by the owner, tasked with responding to requests for inspections, complaints, and other problems relating to or emanating from the short-term vacation rental of the transient public lodging establishment. There shall only be one designated responsible party for each short-term vacation rental. An Owner may retain a private property management company to serve as the Designated Responsible Party.

**Owner:** The term "owner," shall mean the person or entity holding legal title to the short-term vacation rental property, as reflected in the Pinellas County Tax Collector’s records.

**Short-term vacation rental:** A structure which is also a "transient public lodging establishment," within the single family ("S"), medium density ("RM 2"), and medium density duplex residential ("RM 1") districts. As used in this chapter, the term short term vacation rental shall mean the same thing as a "vacation rental."

**Transient occupants:** Any person or guest or invitee of such person, who occupies or is in actual or apparent control or possession of residential property registered or used as a short term vacation rental. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that any person who holds themselves out as being an occupant or guest of an occupant of a short term vacation rental is a transient occupant, as defined here.

**Transient public lodging establishment:** A structure, which is rented to guests more than three (3) times in a calendar year for periods of less than thirty (30) days or more or one (1) calendar month, whichever is less, and which is advertised or held out to the public as a place rented to guests within the single family ("S"), medium density ("RM 2"), and medium density duplex residential ("RM 1") districts. A " transient public lodging establishment" shall be considered a non-residential, commercial business, whether operated for profit or as a not for profit and be subject to the additional requirements of this chapter if the transient public lodging establishment is additionally considered to operate as short term vacation rental as defined herein.

### DIVISION II - REQUIREMENTS

§ 110-842 – Short-Term Vacation Rental Minimum Requirements.

Short term vacation rentals shall be permitted in all residential zoning districts provided they are in compliance with this section. No person shall rent or lease all or any portion of a dwelling unit as a short-term vacation rental, as defined in this Article, without initially and then on a continuing basis:

1. Obtaining a Florida Department of Revenue certificate of registration for purposes of collecting and remitting tourist development taxes, sales surtaxes, and transient rental taxes, if applicable; and
2. Obtaining a Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation license as a transient public lodging establishment, if applicable; and

3. After first securing a certificate from the Department of Revenue, and a license from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, if applicable, an applicant may then obtain a business tax receipt from the City of Indian Rocks Beach pursuant to Chapter 58 of the City’s Code of Ordinances.

Upon initial adoption of this Section, Owners of short term vacation rentals shall have 45 days to submit documentary evidence to the City of Indian Rocks Beach evidencing their individual efforts to register with the Florida Department of Revenue in compliance with this Section. In the event items 1 or 2 above are not applicable to the Property, the Property Owner shall provide a written statement and any supporting documentation setting forth the reason the requirement does not apply. The City Manager or his/her designee shall make a final determination as to the applicability of these minimum requirements for a short term vacation rental.

§ 110-843 – Short-Term Vacation Rental Standards

1. Minimum life/safety requirements. All short term vacation rentals shall comply with all applicable safety requirements, including but not limited to the Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act, Florida’s Building Code, and Florida’s Fire Prevention Code.

2. Inspections

   a. An individual or entity desiring to operate a short term vacation rental shall sign a sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, that he or she believes the subject property is in compliance with all applicable City codes. Execution of this sworn statement is a pre-requisite to receipt of the business tax receipt and final approval to operate a valid short-term vacation rental.

   b. Inspection of a vacation rental to verify compliance with the City’s Code of Ordinances and other applicable safety codes, which governed at the time of completion of the subject construction, may be required subsequent to registration with the City and annually after each renewal. If instances of noncompliance are found, all such instances of noncompliance shall be handled as other violations of the City’s Code of Ordinances, Florida Building Code and Florida Fire and Life Safety Codes are otherwise handled in the City. These requirements will not be imposed so as to affect contracts that pre-exist the effective date of this chapter.

   c. Annual inspections may be made by the City through appointment with the vacation rental owner or agent, as applicable. If a city inspector has made an appointment with vacation rental owner or agent, as applicable, for an inspection, and the city inspector is unable to complete the inspection as a result of an action or inaction of the vacation rental owner or agent, or an occupant of the vacation rental, the vacation rental owner shall be charged a "re-inspection" fee totaling $75.00. The re-inspection fee shall be paid prior to scheduling the re-inspection.
In addition, failure of a vacation rental owner or agent, as applicable, to make the vacation rental available for an inspection within 20 days after notification by the city in writing that the city is ready to conduct an inspection, shall be a violation of this chapter punishable by a fine as provided for in section 1-15 of this Code. Such violation shall continue until the inspection is accomplished. Each day that such violation continues may be deemed a separate violation.

3. Advertising Requirement

All advertising for vacation rental units shall identify the City-issued business tax receipt number associated with the advertised rental property. The vacation business tax receipt number shall be included on all advertising, including, but not limited to print and internet-based advertising. Advertisements that do not contain this information or that contain inaccurate information shall be deemed a violation of this section and subject to the penalties set forth in Section 110-848.

4. Other standards.

Any other standards contained in the City’s Code of Ordinances and Land Development Code, including but not limited to the City’s codes governing noise, garbage, and parking shall apply to short term vacation rentals as well. This shall include but not be limited to regulations concerning noise, parking, setbacks, storm water and other similar provisions.

§ 110-844 Responsible Party

1. Posted Contact Information. The business tax receipt number for the short term vacation rental and phone number of the Designated Responsible Party, as defined in this Article, shall be posted on the front exterior of the dwelling in a place accessible to the public. The sign must be non-illuminated and be one square foot in size on each side. The sign’s background color shall be white, and the font shall be in black Times New Roman or Arial font, and in no smaller than 48 point typeface. The Sign must be constructed of weather resistant wood or plastic. This requirement shall not apply in instances where the Owner occupies a portion or division of the short term vacation rental as his or her primary residence.

2. Duties. The duties of the short term vacation rental responsible party, whether that person be the property owner or an agent thereof, are to:

a. be available at the posted landline or mobile telephone number twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week and capable of directly responding, or directing a designated agent to directly respond to and resolve any issues or concerns raised by City staff or law enforcement officials arising from the short-term vacation rental use when the short term rental is occupied. In the event there are no tenants or occupants in the structure a designated responsible party must be available within a commercially reasonable response time;

b. be authorized to receive service of any legal notice on behalf of the owner of the property for violations of this section; and
c. Maintain a record of all rental/lease agreements for the short term vacation rental property.

d. Otherwise monitor the short-term vacation rental unit at least once a week to assure continued compliance with the requirements of this section.

§ 110-845 Short Term Vacation Rental/Lease Agreement Minimum Provisions.

1. There shall be a written, or online lease, rental, tenant or other recorded usage agreement memorializing each tenancy in a vacation rental, between the owner or designated responsible party of the short term vacation rental property and any lessees or tenants. These agreements shall contain, among other things, the tenant’s agreement to the regulations contained in this Article.

2. The rental, lease, or recorded usage agreement must contain the following information at a minimum:

   a. The name of the primary responsible lessor who will be occupying the unit.

   b. The dates on which the renters or lessees will be occupying the unit.

   c. The City reserves the right to request and receive a copy of any Lease Agreement for the short term vacation rental from the Owner or designated responsible party.

§ 110-846 Required Posting.

It shall be required that the following information be posted in a visually unobstructed area within each short term vacation rental unit:

1. The name and phone number of the designated short-term vacation rental responsible party required by this Article;

2. Notice that all occupants of short term vacation rental units must comply with Chapter 26 of the City’s Code of Ordinances, governing parking, noise, nuisances, litter and abandoned property;

3. The scheduled days of trash pickup and recycling; and

4. The location of the nearest hospital.

5. A statement that all occupants must promptly evacuate the short term vacation rental upon posting of any evacuation order issued by state or local authorities.

§ 110-847 Offenses/Violations.
1. Non-compliance with any provisions of this Article shall constitute a violation of this Article.

2. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a separate and distinct violation.

§ 110-848 Remedies/Enforcement.

1. Violations of this Article shall be subject to penalties as part of a progressive enforcement program with the primary focus on compliance and compatibility with adjoining properties, versus penalties and legal actions. To accomplish a safe and effective short term vacation rental program it is key that short-term vacation rental designated responsible parties are responsive and responsible in the management of the property for compliance with this section. Any code enforcement activities will be pursued in accordance with Florida Statutes Chapter 162 and the City’s Code of Ordinances.

2. Warnings. Warnings shall be issued to the owner of the property or their designated responsible party and include a correction/compliance period. Such warnings may include notice to other agencies for follow-up. Agencies that may be notified include but are not limited to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the Florida Department of Revenue, the Pinellas County Tax Collector, the Pinellas County Property Appraiser, or Florida’s Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as applicable. Non-compliance with a correction/compliance period shall result in the issuance of a citation.

3. Fines. Fines per violation shall increase, on a graduated basis based on the recurrence of individual violations
   a. The first (1st) offense shall result in a fine of $150;
   b. The second (2nd) offense shall result in a fine of $300; and
   c. The third (3rd) offense, and any further repeat violations, shall result in a fine of $500.

The City may prosecute any code enforcement violations pursuant to its full and complete authority as set forth in Chapter 162 of Florida Statutes and its own Code of Ordinances. The City may also rely on an appropriate enforcing agency at the state or local level.

4. Additional Remedies. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the City from seeking all other available remedies which may include but not be limited to injunctive relief, liens, and other civil and criminal penalties as provided by law, as well as referral to other enforcing agencies.
SECTION 3. CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER’S ERRORS

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be included and incorporated into the Code of Ordinances of the City of Indian Rocks Beach, Pinellas County, Florida, as additions and amendments thereto, and shall be appropriately renumbered or relettered to conform to the uniform numbering system of the Code. Scrivener’s errors may be corrected as deemed necessary.

SECTION 4. FULL FORCE AND EFFECT OF EXISTING PROVISIONS

In all other respects, the provisions of the City’s Code of Ordinances not hereby amended or modified shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY

If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED ON FIRST READING on the 13th day of August 2018, by the City Commission of the City of Indian Rocks Beach

PUBLISHED this 31st day of August 2018, in the Tampa Bay Times newspaper

ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING on the 11th day of September 2018, by the City Commission of the City of Indian Rocks Beach, Florida.

Joanne Moston Kennedy, Mayor/Commissioner

ATTEST: Deanne B. O’Reilly, MMC, City Clerk

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

Randy D. Mora, City Attorney
ORDINANCE NO. 2015 - 02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING APPENDIX C, LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; AMENDING ARTICLE III, ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS; CREATING SECTION 3.06.14, SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS; AMENDING SECTION 3.03.02, AC-AGRICULTURE DISTRICT, SECTION 3.03.03, AC-AGRICULTURE/FORESTRY DISTRICT, 3.03.04, R-1-RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 3.03.05, R-1B-URBAN-SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 3.03.06, R-1C-URBAN SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 3.03.07, R-1D-URBAN SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 3.03.08, R-2-TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 3.03.09.01, R-3-MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 3.03.09.02, R-3B-MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, 3.03.10, MH-1-RURAL MOBILE HOME DISTRICT, 3.03.11, MH-2-URBAN MOBILE HOME DISTRICT, 3.03.13, R/C-RESIDENTIAL/LIMITED COMMERCIAL USE DISTRICT, 3.03.20, PUD-PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, 3.03.20.2, MUL-PUD-MIXED USE, LOW INTENSITY-PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, 3.03.20.3, MUH-PUD-MIXED USE, HIGH INTENSITY-PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, 3.03.21, FDD-FUTURE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, AND 3.08.02, SPECIFIC DEFINITIONS OF CERTAIN TERMS USED IN THIS ARTICLE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER’S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, prior to 2011 Florida’s cities and counties regulated local land use issues and decisions under the Home Rule authority granted them by the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Florida Legislature enacted House Bill 883 (Florida Chapter 2011-119, Laws of Florida)(hereafter "HB 883") which preempted the local regulation of a specific land use commonly called short-term vacation rentals (transient rentals less than thirty (30) days in duration and commonly located in residential areas); and

WHEREAS, the preemption bill provided for very little oversight from the state for short term vacation rentals, for example, did not provide for staffing for mandatory or

Additions appear as underlined text, deletions as strikethrough
randomized inspection of the short-term vacation rental units and applied relaxed standards for short-term vacation rentals when compared to hotels, motels, and bed and breakfast establishments; and

WHEREAS, HB 883 prevented local communities from enacting new regulations necessary to address any negative impacts caused by short-term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 720 of Florida Statutes provides for the formation and operation of homeowners’ associations, independent of government authority; and

WHEREAS, homeowners’ associations may or may not exist in all single- and two-family residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, homeowners’ associations may not legally be able to fully address all issues regarding short-term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Florida Legislature enacted Senate Bill 356 (Florida Chapter 2014-71, Laws of Florida)(hereafter “SB 356”) which rescinded the previous preemption on local regulation of short-term vacation rentals, but provided that a local law, ordinance, or regulation adopted after June 1, 2011 may not prohibit short-term vacation rentals or regulate the duration or frequency of rental of vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, SB 356 has returned some local control back to communities to mitigate the effects of short-term vacation rentals in an attempt to make them safer, more compatible with existing neighborhoods, and accountable for their proper operation; and

WHEREAS, through SB 356 short-term vacation rentals cannot be prohibited from a community and would be permitted in all zoning districts; and

WHEREAS, single-family residential neighborhoods and their required infrastructure are generally designed to accommodate typical single-family residential homes with two (2) to three (3) persons per household on average; and

WHEREAS, local governments apply design standards tailored for residential neighborhoods for their roads, driveways, emergency services planning, public shelters, emergency evacuation plans, solid waste collection, utilities, buffers, and are also tailored in assessing their infrastructure impacts and their corresponding fair and proportionate impact/connection fees; and

WHEREAS, permanent single-family home residents inherently understand and know their physical surroundings, to include any safety gaps and potential risks to their families because they have daily familiarity; and

WHEREAS, short-term vacation rental occupants, due to the transient nature of their occupancy, are unfamiliar with local hurricane evacuation plans, the location of fire
extinguishers, residence exit routes, pool and home safety features, and other similar
safety measures that would readily be provided to guests in traditional lodging
establishments; and

WHEREAS, short-term vacation rental owners may live elsewhere and not
experience the quality of life problems and negative impacts associated with larger,
unregulated short-term vacation rental units on residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, short-term vacation rentals with no application of mitigating
standards when located in residential neighborhoods can create disproportionate
impacts related to their size, excessive occupancy, and the lack of proper facilities if left
unregulated; and

WHEREAS, some short-term vacation rentals will likely be created in single-
family homes that were built before more current building codes that require minimum
life/safety improvements, like hardwired or interconnected smoke detectors, carbon
monoxide detectors, or pool alarms and pool safety drains, etc.; and

WHEREAS, some short-term vacation rental owners will make investments in
upgrading building safety measures of their rental properties whereas other owners will
not make such investments without local requirements and an ongoing
inspection/enforcement program; and

WHEREAS, short-term vacation rentals locating within established
neighborhoods can disturb the quiet enjoyment of the neighborhood, lower property
values, and burden the design layout of a typical neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the presence of short-term vacation rentals within single-family
dwelling units in established residential neighborhoods can create negative compatibility
impacts, among which include, but are not limited to, excessive noise, on-street parking,
accumulation of trash, and diminished public safety; and

WHEREAS, traditional lodging establishments (hotels, motels, and bed &
breakfasts) are restricted to commercial and other non-residentially zoned areas where
intensity of uses is separated from less busy and quieter residential uses; and

WHEREAS, traditional lodging establishments have tougher development
standards, undergo annual inspections, and have more stringent operational and
business requirements; and

WHEREAS, traditional lodging establishments often have to make roadway
improvements and/or pay much higher transportation, water, sewer, and other impact
fees to offset the infrastructure demands they create; and

WHEREAS, multi-unit condominium buildings with short-term vacation rental
units are typically constructed to more stringent building code requirements and other

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fire/life safety measures that single- and two-family homes often do not have to meet, including sprinkler systems, interconnected fire alarm systems, fire alarm panels, emergency lighting, exit signs, fire extinguishers, and fire wall separation between occupancies; and

WHEREAS, multi-unit condominium short-term vacation rentals are routinely (often annually) inspected for fire/life safety code compliance to include inspections for the fire sprinkler system, interconnected fire alarm systems, fire alarm panels, fire pumps, emergency lighting, exit signs, backflow prevention, elevator operation, elevator keys and communication; and

WHEREAS, many multi-unit condominium short-term vacation rentals have on-site property managers and employees or other contracted vendors that oversee the maintenance, upkeep, security and/or operation of the property on a frequent basis; and

WHEREAS, the majority of complaints the County has received to date have been from single- and two-family neighborhoods and not from multi-unit condominium short-term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, multi-unit condominium short-term vacation rentals are not regulated locally at this time, but may be in the future if deemed necessary by the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners under the County's home rule authority granted within the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the areas west of U.S. Highway 1 of the unincorporated County are primarily rural in nature and are typically separated by large setbacks with development typically on larger acreage lots; and

WHEREAS, in the areas west of U.S. Highway 1, very few short-term vacation rental units are known to exist with the exception of hunting camps which are in remote, rural locations and often directly supervised or used by the operator on-site; and

WHEREAS, the majority of complaints the County has received to date have been from single- and two-family neighborhoods east of U.S. Highway 1; and

WHEREAS, the unincorporated areas located west of U.S. Highway 1 will not be regulated locally for short-term vacation rental units at this time, but may be in the future if deemed necessary by the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners under the County's home rule authority granted by the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, whenever at least one (1) property owner permanently resides at a short-term vacation rental located within the same structure the number of renters is minimized and the owner can directly manage the property when it is under a short-term rental; and

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WHEREAS, an on-site owner permanently residing at a short-term vacation rental which also serves as the owner’s principal residence will likely manage any vacation rental more restrictively than any local regulation because the owner has a direct, vested interest in how the property the owner resides in is used and maintained; and

WHEREAS, owner-occupied short-term vacation rental units are not the norm in the County and will not be regulated locally for short-term vacation rental units at this time, but may be in the future if deemed necessary by the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners under the County’s home rule authority granted by the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, permanent residents within residential neighborhoods often establish long-term friendships, social norms and a sense of community which often leads to mutual respect among property owners on an ongoing basis; and

WHEREAS, a single-family dwelling home is typically the largest investment a family will make in their lifetime, with the home held sacred in popular culture as the heart and the center of the family unit; and

WHEREAS, permanent residents within established residential neighborhoods deserve the right to tranquility and peaceful enjoyment of their home without over-intrusion by an excessive number of transient occupants in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County promotes tourism, including appreciation and enjoyment of the County’s abundant preserved natural areas, historic sites, rural pristine beaches, and walking and bicycling paths that make Flagler County unique among Florida’s coastal counties; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities in Flagler County, and many local jurisdictions in the State of Florida, and across the nation have standards in place to minimize the negative impacts caused by short-term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, prior to the enactment of HB 883, short-term vacation rentals in Flagler County seemed to be more compatible and coexisted in a fairly compatible manner within established neighborhoods with relatively few conflicts and complaints to the County; and

WHEREAS, prior to the enactment of HB 883, the City of Flagler Beach had adopted regulations providing for the siting and approval of short-term vacation rentals within established neighborhoods, with relatively few conflicts resulting from the regulatory framework that has now been effect for several years; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of HB 883, Flagler County has experienced a large increase in the construction of new, oversized structures for the primary purpose
of serving as mini-hotels for short-term vacation rentals for up to as many as twenty-four (24) individuals; and

WHEREAS, although family sizes per residence can vary widely from residence to residence, according to the recently completed 2010 U.S. Census, Flagler County's average family size is 2.82 persons; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 U.S. Census data also indicates the average household size in Flagler County of 2.42 persons; and

WHEREAS, the operation of some short-term vacation rentals in established neighborhoods in the County create a huge disparity in short-term vacation rental impacts with up to nine (9) times the average occupancy of an existing single-family residence, making the higher occupancy of the rental homes incompatible with established neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, utility usage by short-term vacation rentals may exceed the usage levels anticipated at the time of initial permitting as a single-family residence, creating a disparity between the impact and connection fees paid and the system impacts caused by their increased demand; and

WHEREAS, at least one utility provider has provided user information showing that some short-term vacation rentals can utilize over ten (10) times the capacity of a typical single-family residence; and

WHEREAS, at least one utility provider has taken steps to charge additional impact/system capacity fees based on the increased usage from short-term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida through its existing regulatory framework provides for licensing, maintenance, and inspection of hotels and motels; however no similar regulatory framework exists for short-term vacation rentals; and

WHEREAS, according to the State of Florida records, vacation rentals have flourished for decades while solely under local control; and

WHEREAS, according to the State of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation the number of vacation rental home units has actually decreased from 10,602 units in 2010 to 10,362 units in 2013, since the State preemption into this local community land use decision; and

WHEREAS, current vacation rental industry practice is to set maximum limits upon the number of transient occupants within a short-term vacation rental unit, but lacking provisions for verification and enforcement when overcrowding occurs; and
WHEREAS, current vacation rental industry practice is to charge a flat rental fee for the term of the lease, regardless of the transient occupant count, which incentivizes the common practice for lessees of oversized structures used as short-term vacation rentals to increase the transient occupant count so as to spread out the cost burden for the rental term among as many payers as possible; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to encourage short-term vacation rentals that are safe, fit in with the character of the neighborhood, provide positive impacts for tourism, increase property values, and achieve greater neighborhood compatibility; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County seeks to balance respect for private property rights and incompatibility concerns between the investors/short-term vacation rentals and families/permanent single-family residences in established residential neighborhoods through the use of reasonable development standards; and

WHEREAS, while Flagler County’s average family size is 2.82 persons, the County is desirous of providing for as many as ten (10) transient occupants in a single-family residence – almost four (4) times the County’s average family size – within a short-term vacation rental subject to a reasonable regulatory framework; and

WHEREAS, these regulations are deemed necessary by the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners to preserve property values and to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of permanent residents, lot/parcel owners, investors and transient occupants and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, these regulations are being promulgated by the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners to supplement, but not to replace, any existing federal or state law or regulation, or other controls within established residential neighborhoods served by a homeowners’ association; and

WHEREAS, through these regulations, Flagler County is seeking to regulate another type of commercial use of a single- and two-family dwelling, similar to the County’s provisions for home occupations, which permit limited commercial use of an owner-occupied dwelling subject to initial inspection requirements, ongoing compliance with specific home occupation regulations as provided in the Land Development Code, and issuance and annual renewal of a business tax receipt for the home occupation; and

WHEREAS, these regulations do not regulate duration or frequency of rentals, but are intended to address the frequent change of many transient occupants housed within a single-family dwelling within an established residential neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the application of minimum life/safety requirements to short-term vacation rentals, along with other minimum standards, ensures that transient occupants are provided the same minimum level of protection as is required by the current statutes
and codes for single- and two-family residences utilized as hotels, motels, and dormitories; and

WHEREAS, the County has established a maximum occupancy of sixteen (16) persons within any zoning district because an occupancy exceeding sixteen (16) persons falls into a commercial-type classification as a hotel or dormitory for purposes of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of compliance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code, residential occupancies of sixteen (16) or fewer persons may be provided within one- and two-family dwelling units without consideration as a hotel or dormitory and provision of related life-safety requirements; and

WHEREAS, the minimum residential safety standards, as adopted by the Florida Legislature as the Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act and now in place, include provision of swimming pool, spa, and hot tub barriers or alarms so as to reduce the likelihood of child and elder drowning; and

WHEREAS, sleeping rooms as so designated within short-term vacation rental units shall be recognized in the same manner as bedrooms within single-family residential homes, with the same requirements as are currently provided within local, state, and federal regulations, as applicable; and

WHEREAS, because of the high occupancy and transient nature of occupants within many short-term vacation rentals, fire safety becomes important; and

WHEREAS, where interconnected, hard-wired smoke and carbon monoxide alarm systems are not in place, then at a minimum, these systems will be installed to provide for sufficient warning for evacuation so as to minimize loss of life within an occupied short-term vacation rental unit; and

WHEREAS, where a fire sprinkler system is not in place, then at a minimum, the placement of a multi-purpose dry chemical fire extinguisher on each floor of a short-term vacation rental will provide a basic level of fire protection based on the class of fire and fire loading anticipated to be encountered in an occupied short-term vacation rental unit; and

WHEREAS, in the event of an emergency, the presence of posted building exit routes can reduce the risk to transient occupants who are unfamiliar with the short-term vacation rental unit; and

WHEREAS, site-specific short-term vacation rental standards, like minimum parking standards, solid waste handling and containment, and the establishment of quiet hours, serve to maintain the decorum that exists among owners in established

Additions appear as underlined text, deletions as strikethrough
neighborhoods and are better assured by having these same standards conveyed to transient occupants through the duration of their rental; and

WHEREAS, short-term vacation rentals operate as commercial enterprises, subject to additional regulatory requirements beyond those normally required of single-family and two-family residences, including business licensing by the State of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation’s Division of Hotels and Restaurants, obtaining a local business tax receipt, and collecting and remitting various sales taxes to state and local government; and

WHEREAS, a vacation rental is a commercial lodging activity; and

WHEREAS, some vacation rentals are being used exclusively as rentals by investors/owners; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of minimum business practices, such as the provision of both lease-specific and property-specific information to lessees, and the designation of a local short-term vacation rental responsible party, ensures that the private property rights of the short-term vacation rental owner are balanced with the needs of the County to protect visitors and tourists and to preserve the general welfare through its limited regulatory power; and

WHEREAS, the County, through its existing regulatory framework, will issue certificates to short-term vacation rentals conforming to these standards, which will in turn provide a level playing field amongst all providers of short-term vacation rental units; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance additionally establishes an enforcement mechanism for those short-term vacation rentals which do not adhere to the standards on an initial or continuing basis, with the overall goal of the short-term vacation rental program being compliance with the standards and not punitive in its scope; and

WHEREAS, the Flagler County Planning and Development Board held a duly noticed public hearing on October 29, 2014 and recommended approval of this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners held a duly noticed public hearing on November 3, 2014 and approved this ordinance on first reading; and

WHEREAS, the Flagler County staff has held at least fifteen (15) different meetings with potentially affected individuals to hear, discuss, and consider their concerns regarding the ordinance; and
WHEREAS, public notice of this action has been provided in accordance with Section 125.66, Florida Statutes; and in accordance with the Flagler County Land Development Code.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS

A. The above Recitals are incorporated herein as Findings of Fact.

B. The Board of County Commissioners further finds as follows:

1. The proposed amendment will provide for the orderly development of Flagler County and complies with applicable Comprehensive Plan goals, objectives and policies; and

2. The proposed amendment will serve to protect the health and safety of residents or workers in the area and will be complementary to the use of adjacent properties or the general neighborhood.

SECTION 2. LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT

A. Appendix C, Land Development Code, Article III Zoning Districts, is hereby amended as follows:

1. Creation of new Section 3.06.14, Short-term vacation rentals, to read as follows:

   3.06.14. – Short-term vacation rentals.

   A. Applicability. This section shall apply to short-term vacation rental as a commercial business, as defined in section 3.08.02, of a single-family dwelling and a two-family dwelling. This section shall not apply to short-term vacation rentals within a multi-family residential building, or a group of multi-family residential buildings, which includes three (3) or more individual dwelling units within such building or group of buildings. This section shall also not apply to unincorporated areas west of U.S. Highway 1 and to any facilities that are occupied on a full-time basis by the owner as an on-premises permanent resident.

   B. Short-term vacation rental minimum requirements. Short-term vacation rentals shall be permitted in all residential zoning districts provided they are in compliance with this section. No person shall rent or lease all or any portion of a dwelling unit as a short-term vacation rental as defined in section 3.08.02 without initially and then on a continuing basis:

Additions appear as underlined text, deletions as strikethrough

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1. Obtaining a short-term vacation rental certificate from Flagler County pursuant to this section;

2. Obtaining a business tax receipt from Flagler County pursuant to chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances;

3. Obtaining a Florida Department of Revenue certificate of registration for purposes of collecting and remitting tourist development taxes, sales surtaxes, and transient rental taxes;

4. Obtaining a Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation license as a transient public lodging establishment; and

5. As demonstrated through an affidavit, maintaining initial and ongoing compliance with the Short-term Vacation Rental Standards contained herein, plus any other applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and standards to include, but not be limited to, Chapter 509, Florida Statutes, and Rule Chapters 61C and 69A, Florida Administrative Code.

C. Short-Term Vacation Rental Standards. The following Standards shall govern the use of any short-term vacation rental as a permitted use:

1. Minimum life/safety requirements:

   a. Swimming pool, spa and hot tub safety – A swimming pool, spa or hot tub shall comply with the current standards of the Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act, Chapter 515, Florida Statutes.

   b. Sleeping rooms – All sleeping rooms shall meet the single- and two-family dwelling minimum requirements of the Florida Building Code.

   c. Smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detection and notification system – If an interconnected and hard-wired smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detection and notification system is not in place within the short-term vacation rental unit, then an interconnected, hard-wired smoke alarm and carbon monoxide (CO) alarm system shall be required to be installed and maintained on a continuing basis consistent with the requirements of Section R314, Smoke Alarms, and Section R315, Carbon Monoxide Alarms, of the Florida Building Code – Residential.

   d. Fire extinguisher – A portable, multi-purpose dry chemical 2A:10B:C fire extinguisher shall be installed, inspected and

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maintained in accordance with NFPA 10 on each floor/level of the unit. The extinguisher(s) shall be installed on the wall in an open common area or in an enclosed space with appropriate markings visibly showing the location.

2. Maximum occupancy. The following specific site considerations in subsections a., b., and c. shall limit any short-term vacation rental occupancy to whichever is less, but not to exceed the permitted maximums provided in subsections d. or e., as applicable, below:

a. One (1) person per one hundred fifty (150) gross square feet of permitted, conditioned living space; or

b. The maximum number of occupants allowed shall be restricted in accordance with any septic tank permit and the assumed occupancy/conditions the permit was issued under by the Flagler County Health Department; or

c. Two (2) persons per sleeping room, meeting the requirements for a sleeping room, plus two (2) additional persons that may sleep in a common area.

d. In the R-1, R-1b, R-1c, R-1d, R-2, MH-1, MH-2, and R/C zoning districts and any PUD development or specific portion thereof developed as a single- or two-family neighborhood, the maximum occupancy shall be limited to ten (10) occupants per short-term vacation rental unit.

e. In all other zoning districts and developments predominantly developed with greater than two-family dwelling units, the maximum occupancy shall be limited to sixteen (16) transient occupants per short-term vacation rental unit.

3. Parking standard. Based on the maximum short-term transient occupancy permitted, minimum off-street parking shall be provided as one (1) space per three (3) transient occupants. Garage spaces shall count if the space is open and available and the transient occupants are given vehicular access to the garage. On-street parking shall not be permitted.

4. Solid waste handling and containment. Based on the maximum transient occupancy permitted, one (1) trash storage container shall be provided per four (4) transient occupants or fraction thereof. Appropriate screening and storage requirements for trash storage containers shall apply per any development approval or local neighborhood standard, whichever is more restrictive, and be
incorporated into the Certificate. For purposes of this section, a trash storage container shall be a commercially available thirty-five (35) gallon or greater capacity container with a lid that securely fastens to the container so as to prevent spills and animal access, with the container to be placed at curbside on the day of solid waste pickup and to be removed from curbside no later than sunrise the following day.

5. Minimum short-term vacation rental/lease agreement wording. The short-term vacation rental/lease agreement shall contain the minimum information as provided for in subsection 3.06.14.H.

6. Minimum short-term vacation rental information required postings. The short-term vacation rental shall be provided with posted material as required by Flagler County as prescribed in subsection 3.06.14.I.

7. Minimum short-term vacation rental lessee information. The short-term vacation rental lessee shall be provided with a copy of the information required in subsection 3.06.14.H.

8. Designation of a short-term vacation rental responsible party capable of meeting the duties provided in subsection 3.06.14.G.

9. Septic tank wastewater disposal. If wastewater service is provided through a private home septic system, then the owner shall provide Flagler County a valid Health Department septic permit and the application it is based upon for the property, demonstrating the capacity for the short-term vacation rental occupancy requested.

10. Advertising. Any advertising of the short-term vacation rental unit shall conform to information included in the Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate and the property’s approval, particularly as this pertains to maximum occupancy.

11. Other standards. Any other standards contained within the Flagler County Land Development Code to include but not be limited to: noise, setbacks, stormwater, and similar provisions.

D. Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate. To verify compliance with these short-term vacation rental standards, any property owner who wishes to use his or her dwelling unit as a short-term vacation rental must first apply for and receive a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate from Flagler County, and renew the Certificate annually for as long as the unit is used as a short-term vacation rental. Each dwelling unit used as a short-term vacation rental requires a separate Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate. An annual Certificate fee shall be paid for each dwelling unit certified as a short-term vacation rental, in an amount to be determined by
Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners, to cover the costs of administration of the Certificate and inspection program. Failure to comply with any of the requirements of this section shall be grounds for revocation or suspension of the Certificate in accordance with the requirements contained herein.

E. **Application for a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate.** Each property owner seeking initial issuance of a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate, renewal, transfer, or modification of a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate, shall submit a Flagler County Short-Term Vacation Rental application in a form specified by the County, along with an application fee in an amount to be determined by Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.

1. A complete application for the initial or modification of a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate shall demonstrate compliance with the Short-Term Vacation Rental Standards above through the following submittals:

   a. A completed application and applicable fees.

   b. Exterior site sketch – An exterior sketch of the facility demonstrating compliance with the Standards contained herein shall be provided. The sketch provided shall be drawn to scale, and showing all structures, pools, fencing, and uses, including areas provided for off-street parking and trash collection. For purposes of the sketch, off-street parking spaces will be delineated so as to enable a fixed count of the number of spaces provided; however, no parking shall be permitted within a public right-of-way or private roadway tract.

   c. Interior building sketch by floor – A building sketch(s) shall be provided by floor showing a floor layout and demonstrating compliance with the Standards contained herein. The sketch shall be drawn to scale, showing all bedrooms and sleeping areas, exits, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers etc.

   d. Required short-term vacation rental postings – Copies of required postings shall be provided.

   e. A draft short-term vacation rental/lease agreement showing required lease terms – A blank sample to be provided.

   f. A Health Department septic tank permit and the application on which the permit is based, if applicable.
g. Any other required information necessary to demonstrate compliance with the Short-Term Vacation Rental Standards herein.

2. Certificate renewals or transfers. The application for renewal or transfer of a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate shall demonstrate compliance with the following:

a. If no changes have occurred since the issuance of the most recent Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate, then no additional submittals are required to accompany the renewal/transfer Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate application except as subsection 3.06.14.E.2.b below may be applicable.

b. If minor changes not involving the specific modifications described below in subsection 3.06.14.E.3 have occurred since the issuance of the most recent Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate, then additional submittals specific to the minor changes shall be required to accompany the application as necessary to demonstrate compliance with the Standards herein.

c. An inspection is required whenever there is a transfer of a Certificate.

d. A Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate holder must apply annually for a renewal of the Certificate by January 1 of each year.

3. Modification of Certificate. An application for modification of a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate is necessary where any of the following apply:

a. The gross square footage of the dwelling unit has increased; or

b. The number of sleeping areas/bedrooms is proposed to increase; or

c. The occupancy is otherwise proposed to increase.

For the inspection of a modification to a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate, the modification in facility usage may not occur until after a successful County inspection; however, pending such successful inspection the current Certificate will still apply.

F. Initial and routine compliance inspections of short-term vacation rentals.

1. An inspection of the dwelling unit for compliance with this section is required prior to issuance of an initial Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate.

Additions appear as underlined text, deletions as strikethrough.
Certificate. If violations are found, all violations must be corrected and the dwelling unit must be re-inspected prior to issuance of the initial Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate as provided herein. An exception to the correction of violations as required in this subsection is made for any short-term vacation rental seeking vested rights pursuant to subsection 3.06.14.N to the extent that a vesting determination specifically provides such exemption.

2. Once issued, a short-term vacation rental unit must be properly maintained in accordance with the Short-Term Vacation Rental Standards herein and will be re-inspected annually or, in the event of a Certificate transfer, re-inspected at the time of transfer. For an inspection, all violations must be corrected and re-inspected within thirty (30) calendar days. Failure to correct such inspection deficiencies in the timeframes provided shall result in the suspension of the Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate until such time as the violation(s) is/are corrected and re-inspected.

3. The inspections shall be made by appointment with the short-term vacation rental responsible party. If the inspector(s) has made an appointment with the responsible party to complete an inspection, and the responsible party fails to admit the officer at the scheduled time, the owner shall be charged a "no show" fee in an amount to be determined by Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners to cover the inspection expense incurred by Flagler County.

4. If the inspector(s) is denied admittance by the short-term vacation rental responsible party or if the inspector(s) fails in at least three (3) attempts to complete an initial or subsequent inspection of the rental unit, the inspector(s) shall provide notice of failure of inspection to the owner to the address shown on the existing Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate or the application for Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate.

   a. For an initial inspection, the notice of failure of inspection results in the Certificate not being issued; the short-term vacation rental is not permitted to operate without a valid Certificate.

   b. For a subsequent inspection, the notice of failure of inspection is considered a violation pursuant to subsection 3.06.14.F.2., above and is subject to enforcement remedies as provided herein.

G. Short-term vacation rental responsible party.

1. The purpose of the responsible party is to respond to routine inspections and as well non-routine complaints and other more
immediate problems related to the short-term vacation rental of the property.

2. The property owner may serve in this capacity or shall otherwise designate a short-term vacation rental responsible party to act on their behalf. Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older may be designated by the owner provided they can perform the duties listed in subsection 3.06.14.G.3 below.

3. The duties of the short-term vacation rental responsible party whether the property owner or an agent are to:

   a. Be available by landline or mobile telephone at the listed phone number twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week and capable of handling any issues arising from the short-term vacation rental use;

   b. If necessary, be willing and able to come to the short-term vacation rental unit within two (2) hours following notification from an occupant, the owner, or Flagler County to address issues related to the short-term vacation rental;

   c. Authorized to receive service of any legal notice on behalf of the owner for violations of this section; and

   d. Otherwise monitor the short-term vacation rental unit at least once weekly to assure continued compliance with the requirements of this section.

4. A property owner may change his or her designation of a short-term vacation rental responsible party temporarily or permanently; however, there shall only be one (1) short-term vacation rental responsible party for each short-term vacation rental at any given time. To change the designated responsible party, the property owner shall notify Flagler County in writing via a completed form provided by the County.

H. Short-term vacation rental/lease agreement minimum provisions. The rental/lease agreement must contain the following information at a minimum:

1. Maximum occupancy of the short-term vacation rental unit as permitted on the Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate for the property;

2. The name and ages of all persons who will be occupying the unit;

Additions appear as underlined text, deletions as strikethrough.
3. The license tag numbers for all vehicles that the occupant(s) will be parking at the unit, with a total number not to exceed the number of off-street parking spaces at the unit as designated on the Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate; and

4. A statement that all transient occupants must evacuate from the short-term vacation rental upon posting of any evacuation order issued by local, state, or federal authorities.

I. Required posting of the following short-term vacation rental unit information.

1. On the back of or next to the main entrance door or on the refrigerator there shall be provided as a single page the following information:

a. The name, address and phone number of the short-term vacation rental responsible party;

b. The maximum occupancy of the unit;

c. Notice that quiet hours are to be observed between 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. daily or as superseded by any County noise regulation;

d. The maximum number of vehicles that can be parked at the unit, along with a sketch of the location of the off-street parking spaces;

e. The days of trash pickup and recycling;

f. If the short-term vacation rental unit is located on the barrier island, notice of sea turtle nesting season restrictions and sea turtle lighting usage; and

g. The location of the nearest hospital.

2. If the short-term vacation rental unit includes three (3) or more occupied floors, on the third floor above ground level and higher floors there shall be posted, next to the interior door of each bedroom a legible copy of the building evacuation map – Minimum 8-1/2" by 11" in size.

J. Offenses/violations.

1. Non-compliance with any provisions of this section shall constitute a violation of this section, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, the specific paragraphs within subsection 3.06.14.B.

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2. Separate violations. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a separate and distinct violation, except that occupancy violations shall be governed by subsection 3.06.14.L.3.

K. Remedies/enforcement. Violations of this section shall be subject to penalties as part of a progressive enforcement program with the primary focus on compliance and compatibility with adjoining properties, versus penalties and legal actions. To accomplish a safe and effective vacation rental program it is key that short-term vacation rental responsible parties are responsive and responsible in the management of the property for compliance with this section. Code enforcement activities will be in accordance with Florida Statutes Chapter 162 and the Flagler County Code of Ordinances.

1. Warnings. Warnings shall be issued for first-time violations and have a correction/compliance period associated with it. Such warnings may include notice to other agencies for follow-up by such agencies, such as the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the Department of Revenue, the Flagler County Tax Collector and the Flagler County Property Appraiser, as applicable. Non-compliance with a correction compliance period shall result in the issuance of a citation.

2. Fines per violation shall be set by Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners for first (1st), second (2nd), third (3rd) and further repeat violations. The County may utilize Part 1 of Florida Chapter 162 to prosecute a code violation and in such case a special magistrate shall be authorized to hold hearings, assess fines and order other relief in lieu of any code enforcement board. Alternatively, the County may utilize Part 2 of Florida Chapter 162 and pursue violations by way of a civil citation system as provided in its Code of Ordinances. The County may also rely on an appropriate enforcing agency at the state or local level.

3. Additional remedies. Nothing contained herein shall prevent Flagler County from seeking all other available remedies which may include, but not be limited to, suspension or revocation of a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate, injunctive relief, liens, and other civil and criminal penalties as provided by law, as well as referral to other enforcing agencies.

4. Suspension of Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate. In addition to any fines and any other remedies described herein or provided for by law, the County may suspend a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate for multiple violations of the maximum occupancy in any continuous thirty-six (36) month period, in accordance with the following:

Additions appear as underlined text, deletions as strikethrough
1. Suspension timeframes.
   a. Upon a fourth (4th) violation of the maximum occupancy the Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate shall be suspended for a period of seven (7) calendar days.
   b. Upon a fifth (5th) violation of the maximum occupancy the Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate shall be suspended for a period of thirty (30) calendar days.
   c. For each additional violation of the maximum occupancy the Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate shall be suspended for an additional thirty (30) calendar days up to a maximum period of twelve (12) months. For example the sixth (6th) violation shall be for sixty (60) calendar days; the seventh (7th) violation shall be for ninety (90) calendar days, and so on.

2. Suspension restrictions. A short-term vacation rental may not provide transient occupancy during any period of suspension of a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate.
   a. The suspension shall begin immediately following notice, commencing either:
      1. at the end of the current vacation rental lease period; or
      2. within thirty (30) calendar days, whichever date commences earlier, or as otherwise determined by the County.
   b. Operation during any period of suspension shall be deemed a violation pursuant to subsection 3.06.14.K.2 and shall be subject to daily fine, up to five hundred dollars ($500) or to the maximum amount as otherwise provided in Florida Statutes for repeat violations, for each day that the short-term vacation rental operates during a period of violation.

3. Number of violations. For purposes of this section only, violations shall be considered per the rental period or per every seven (7) days, whichever is less and for only those violations in which a code enforcement citation or criminal charge was issued. Violations could potentially occur over multiple times over the same rental period.

N. Vesting. Existing, legally-established short-term vacation rentals located in zoning districts and developments described in subsection 3.06.14.A as of January 1, 2015 may become vested in the ways described below.
provided they are otherwise in compliance with all other requirements contained herein.

To qualify for any vesting existing short-term vacation rentals shall have until April 15, 2015 to make a full and complete application for a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate and until July 1, 2015 to receive a Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate to come into compliance with the County’s requirements.

1. Rental agreement vesting. It is recognized that likely there are existing rental/lease agreements for short-term vacation rentals in existence at the time of passage of the ordinance enacting this section which may not be in compliance with the terms of this section. Rental agreements that were entered into prior to February 19, 2015 for the period to up to February 28, 2016 shall be considered vested. No special vesting process or fee shall be required to obtain this vesting benefit other than demonstrating eligibility through the normal Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate process. Such rental/lease agreement(s) shall not be required to be submitted to the County to retain this vesting.

Any rental/lease agreement(s) entered into prior to February 19, 2015 for the period after March 1, 2016 shall be required to be submitted to the County for verification and go through a vesting hearing process for a final determination. All rental agreements entered into after February 19, 2015 and for any rental period beyond January 1, 2017 shall comply with the provisions of the ordinance enacting this section.

2. Temporary vesting of certain safety requirements. Some existing short-term vacation rentals may not meet the minimum life/safety standards (subsection 3.06.14.C.1) required herein. Correcting these measures may take some time to secure a licensed contractor, obtain the necessary permits, and complete the work. All short-term vacation rentals shall have six (6) months from the effective date of the ordinance enacting this section to come into compliance with these standards. A provisional Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate may be issued for up to a maximum of six (6) months past the adoption of the ordinance enacting this section granting this time for the facility to comply with the physical changes required. No special vesting process or fee shall be required to obtain this vesting benefit other than demonstrating eligibility through the normal Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate process.

3. Maximum occupancy vesting. In applying the standards of subsection 3.06.14.C to the short-term vacation rentals lawfully in existence prior to February 19, 2015, it is understood that there are properties that may otherwise physically qualify for larger occupancies if the maximum

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occupancy were set higher. In an effort to recognize investment backed expectations and yet balance and protect the interest of other single-family and two-family properties who are not rental properties, there shall be a phasing-in of maximum occupancy.

The maximum occupancy for these properties may be temporarily allowed to be capped at no more than fourteen (14) transient occupants providing all other requirements of subsection 3.06.14.C can be met. This maximum density may be retained through February 28, 2018 in which case it shall be reduced by two (2) thereafter. The maximum density of twelve (12) transient occupants shall then be retained through February 28, 2021 and then shall be reduced by two (2) to reach the maximum occupancy herein. No special vesting process or fee shall be required to obtain this vesting benefit other than demonstrating eligibility through the normal Short-Term Vacation Rental Certificate process.

4. For those owners that desire a higher vesting occupancy and/or different vesting schedule, the owner of the property may make application for consideration of an alternative vesting benefit. The alternative vesting process shall require the following information at a minimum, although the actual application and review process may request additional information:

a. Submittal of a complete vesting application to include applicable fee;

b. Issuance of Short-term Vacation Rental Certificate on the property otherwise meeting all other requirements herein;

c. A written narrative and any tabulation/evidence showing what potential financial impacts the reduction in occupancy will create;

d. Any prospectus, financial pro forma, or other information relied upon to make the investment into the property;

e. Actual short-term vacation rental/lease agreements on the property for the last three (3) years showing the number of occupants for the short-term vacation rental unit per rental;

f. Profit and loss statement for the property certified accurate by a Certified Public Accountant for the last three (3) years;

g. Detailed gross and net revenues/expenses for the property to include but not be limited to: management fees, maintenance fees, utility costs, and similar expenses;

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h. Purchase price for the property and/or structure – If constructed by
the owner, the construction costs of the facility;

i. Any mortgage or debt on the property along with any monthly debt
service payments; and

j. All other information the applicant believes is relevant in
establishing any vested rights claim and to demonstrate an
extraordinary consideration that should be considered by the
County.

The review process for an application for a higher vesting occupancy
and/or different vesting schedule under this subsection will, at a
minimum, provide for public notice to property owners within three
hundred (300) feet of the subject property.

5. In the consideration of applications for vested rights under this
subsection, such determinations shall be made by a special master, for
which the use and procedures therefor shall be by Resolution of the
Board of County Commissioners.

a. The determination of the special master shall be deemed final
action. In considering an application for vested rights, the burden
of demonstrating entitlement to a vested right from the provisions of
the ordinance enacting this section shall be on the owner or
applicant seeking to establish vested rights.

b. Owners, seeking to establish vested rights, must demonstrate that
the application of the ordinance enacting this section would
inordinately burden an existing use of their real property or a vested
right to a specific use of their real property.

6. A vested use shall not transfer to a subsequent owner. A vested use is
not transferrable to another short-term vacation rental.

7. If a vested use ceases for a period of six (6) months, then the vesting
shall be considered to have lapsed and the short-term vacation rental
will be subject to all Short-Term Vacation Rental Standards as if a new
application.

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2. Amendment to section 3.03.02, AC-Agriculture district, subsection B., Permitted
principal uses and structures, to read as follows:

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3. Amendment to section 3.03.03, AC-2-Agriculture/forestry district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:

7. Short-term vacation rentals.

4. Amendment to section 3.03.04, R-1-Rural residential district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:


5. Amendment to section 3.03.05, R-1b-Urban single-family residential district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:

4. Short-term vacation rentals.

6. Amendment to section 3.03.06, R-1c-Urban single-family residential district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:

4. Short-term vacation rentals.

7. Amendment to section 3.03.07, R-1d-Urban single-family residential district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:

4. Short-term vacation rentals.

8. Amendment to section 3.03.08, R-2-Two-family residential district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:

5. Short-term vacation rentals.

9. Amendment to section 3.03.09.01, R-3-Multifamily residential district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:

5. Short-term vacation rentals.

10. Amendment to section 3.03.09.02, R-3b-Multifamily residential district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:

Additions appear as underlined text; deletions as strikethrough.
5. Short-term vacation rentals.

11. Amendment to section 3.03.10, MH-1-Rural mobile home district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:


12. Amendment to section 3.03.11, MH-2-Urban mobile home district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:


13. Amendment to section 3.03.13, Residential/limited commercial use district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:

4. Short-term vacation rentals.

14. Amendment to section 3.03.20, PUD-Planned unit development, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:


15. Amendment to section 3.03.20.2, MUL-PUD-Mixed use, low intensity-planned unit development, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:


16. Amendment to section 3.03.20.3, MUH-PUD-Mixed use, high intensity-planned unit development, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:

17. Short-term vacation rentals.

17. Amendment to section 3.03.21, FDD-Future development district, subsection B., Permitted principal uses and structures, to read as follows:

Additions appear as underlined text, deletions as strikethrough.

18. Amendment to section 3.08.02, *Specific definitions of certain terms used in this article*, to include the following definitions:

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*Bedroom:* The term "bedroom" shall have the same meaning as in §381.0065(2)(b), Florida Statutes. The term "sleeping room" is the same as a bedroom.

*Short-term vacation rental:* Any unit or group of units in a condominium, cooperative, or timeshare plan, or any individually or collectively owned single-family, two-family, three-family, or four-family house or dwelling unit which is also a "transient public lodging establishment." As used in section 3.06.14, the term "vacation rental" is the same as a short-term vacation rental.

*Transient public lodging establishment:* Any unit, group of units, dwelling, building, or group of buildings within a single complex of buildings which is rented to guests more than three (3) times in a calendar year for periods of less than thirty (30) days or one (1) calendar month, whichever is less, or which is advertised or held out to the public as a place regularly rented to guests. A "transient public lodging establishment" shall be considered as a non-residential, commercial business, whether operated for profit or as a not-for-profit, and be subject to the additional requirements of section 3.06.14 if the transient public lodging establishment is additionally considered to operate as a short-term vacation rental as defined herein.

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**SECTION 3. CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER’S ERRORS**

A. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be included and incorporated into the Code of Ordinances of Flagler County, Florida, as additions and amendments thereto, and shall be appropriately renumbered or relabeled to conform to the uniform numbering system of the Code. Scrivener’s errors may be corrected as deemed necessary.

B. Only Section 2 herein shall be codified within the Flagler County Code of Ordinances. Sections not specifically amended herein shall remain unchanged by this Ordinance.

**SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY**

If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Additions appear as underlined text, deletions as strikethrough.
SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State as provided in Section 125.66, Florida Statutes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA THIS 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2015.

FLAGLER COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Frank J. Meeker, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gail Wadsworth, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and Comptroller

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Al Hadeed, County Attorney

Additions appear as underlined text, deletions as strikethrough
A single-use plastic can be defined as any plastic material that is designed to be used once in its same form and then disposed of or destroyed. Since the dramatic proliferation of these items, a similar trend in natural resource consumption has been seen, as well as an increase in the negative impact of plastics on our environment. Aquatic environments are where the most critical environmental effects can be seen, including in Tampa Bay, which contains over nine trillion pieces of microplastics. These microscopic pieces of plastic are created as non-disintegrating plastic items, such as bottles and straws, break down into smaller particles. Larger pieces of plastic litter are also a concern to stormwater systems, water quality, wildlife and subsequently the local environmental tourism economy.

In response to the increasing impacts of single-use plastics many communities across the country, state and county are introducing ordinances to regulate certain types of these plastics to mitigate future damages. Over 50 communities in the State of Florida support restrictions on certain single-use plastics, with over a dozen having ordinances restricting these items either on City property, community-wide, or both. The City of Largo has several options to restrict these materials, although State preemption blocks the ability to regulate many single-use plastics.

Focusing future outreach efforts, not only on the importance of recycling but also of resource reduction, will help to support eight indicators in the Largo Environmental Action Plan (LEAP). Developing single-use plastic reduction practices that align with LEAP will ensure operational efficiencies and strengthen the shared regional approach to waste management. The State has enacted several restrictions on the ability of local governments to regulate single-use plastics. These restrictions are summarized in the attached legal memo.
Question: What, if anything, can the City of Largo do to regulate single use plastics?

Summary: As it stands now, there is a small window of opportunity for local government to regulate single use plastics:

1. Plastics used by food establishments (including food products, food service, and food outlets) that are not polystyrene (#6 plastic);
2. Plastics that are not auxiliary containers, wrappings, or disposable plastic bags; and not packaging of products;
3. Use of polystyrene (#6 plastic) by individuals on public property, temporary vendors on public property, or entities engaged in a contractual relationship with the City.

What has Legislature preempted?

1. Packaging of Products manufactured or sold in the state.
2. Any rule, regulation, or ordinance regarding use, disposition, sale, prohibition, restriction, or tax of auxiliary containers, wrappings, or disposable plastic bags.
3. The regulation of the use or sale of polystyrene (#6) products by food establishments.

• Relevant Statutes:

  o **Fla. Stat. §403.708(9)** —The packing of products manufactured or sold in the state may not be controlled by governmental rule, regulation, or ordinance adopted after March 1, 1974, other than as expressly provided in this act.
    - “Packaging of products” is not defined

  o **Fla. Stat. §403.7033**—The Legislature finds that prudent regulation of recyclable materials is crucial to the ongoing welfare of Florida's ecology and economy. As such, the Department of Environmental Protection shall undertake an analysis of the need for new or different regulation of auxiliary containers, wrappings, or disposable plastic bags used by consumers to carry products from retail establishments. The analysis shall include input from state and local government agencies, stakeholders, private businesses, and citizens, and shall evaluate the efficacy and necessity of both statewide and local regulation of these materials. To ensure consistent and effective implementation, the department shall submit a report with conclusions and recommendations to the Legislature no later than February 1, 2010. Until such time that the Legislature adopts the recommendations of the department, no local government, local governmental
agency, or state government agency may enact any rule, regulation, or ordinance regarding use, disposition, sale, prohibition, restriction, or tax of such auxiliary containers, wrappings, or disposable plastic bags.

- Statute does not define “auxiliary containers, wrappings, or disposable plastic bags.”

- **Fla. Stat. §500.90**—The regulation of the use or sale of polystyrene products by entities regulated under this chapter (food services establishments) is preempted to the state. This preemption does not apply to local ordinances or provisions thereof enacted before January 1, 2016, and does not limit the authority of a local government to restrict the use of polystyrene by individuals on public property, temporary vendors on public property, or entities engaged in a contractual relationship with the local government for the provision of goods or services, unless such use is otherwise preempted by law.

- **Note**: No Florida Statute specifically address plastic cups, utensils, or straws which are not otherwise made of polystyrene (#6). Although most disposable cups and utensils are made from polystyrene (#6) and thus encompassed in the preemption under §500.90, many of straws are now being made with polypropylene (#5), which is how many communities have adopted regulations specifically aimed at plastic straws without triggering the preemption.