

From: [Gary Helfrich](#)
To: [Alisa Sanders](#)
Subject: FW: In Support of Exclusion Zone for Hughes Chicken Colony
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 1:45:34 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Shelley <arrowfarms@vom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 11:35 AM
To: Gary Helfrich <Gary.Helfrich@sonoma-county.org>
Subject: In Support of Exclusion Zone for Hughes Chicken Colony

EXTERNAL

>

> March 15, 2023

>

> To: The Sonoma County Planning Commission

> Re: Establishment of a Vacation Rental Exclusion Zone for the Hughes

> Chicken Colony area

>

> I am writing to support the establishment of a Vacation Rental Exclusion Zone for the Hughes Chicken Colony area in the Southern Sonoma Valley.

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> My home in that area is now literally surrounded with short-term vacation rental houses. In my short block on Acacia Avenue alone, there are 5 permitted VR uses among the 13 homes on my block. That is not enough space to ensure the quiet use of my home that I expect from this neighborhood where I have lived for 30 years.

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> With the recent influx of vacation homes, the neighborhood has changed from an area where we knew everyone on the block to one where we never know who will be driving down the street or who is using the outdoor space next to our fence, often with no regard for our privacy or the enjoyment of our home.

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> Normally when someone lives in a house they own or rent long term, they work during the day, then come home expecting to do some chores or homework, or to make dinner, work on a hobby or project, or perhaps watch some TV. Then they go to bed at a reasonable hour. Generally they are quiet users of their property, and generally all are appropriately neighborly. I never hear my live-in neighbors unless they have to call the chickens in or get their goats or dogs under control.

>

> The lifestyle is different however when the home is rented short-term for vacation uses. When the short term tenants see the home as a 'get-away', they live in it by vacation rules, and often show no regard for their neighbors, who they do not know and often do not respect. Friends are getting together often gather outside, laughing and talking loudly enough that I can hear the words they are saying inside my home. Then, when they decide it would be nice to have some music, it blares into my windows and ruins my home environment.

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> This kind of socializing would be better done at a hotel or other vacation location in a commercial district that is set up for it rather than in a neighborhood of hard-working people. For that reason, I completely support the vacation rentals exclusion zone for the entire Hughes Chicken Colony.

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> There are other reasons why vacation rentals are bad for our community, and should be minimized. They remove homes from the local rental market that would otherwise be available to the local people and families who desperately need housing in the area, and who also work locally. Many of our essential workers now have to drive from as far away as Lake County to get to their jobs. Wouldn't it be better if they were able to live locally, while at the same time reducing both their Vehicle Miles Travelled and the cost to their pocketbooks for gas and the upkeep of their vehicles. To say nothing of the time they waste in traffic when they could be home with the kids and their

spouse, helping with dinner or getting the homework done.

>

> Please support the establishment of an Exclusion Zone for the entire Hughes Chicken Colony, for the sake of our neighborhood and as one small step toward dealing with the housing problem in Sonoma County.

>

> Shelley Arrowsmith

> 2572 Acacia Avenue

> Sonoma, 95476

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