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May 15, 2020

Secretary Halsey Beshears
2601 Blair Stone Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1027

Re: Lifting Ban on Vacation Rentals for Santa Rosa County

Dear Secretary Beshears,

Navarre Beach is the primary economic driver for Santa Rosa County tourism revenue. Aside from a single hotel on the beach, vacation home and condominium rentals generate the remaining tax dollars. Our local economy has suffered greatly due to this ban as well as the continued loss of income that many rely on to pay mortgages and support local employment. Santa Rosa County previously requested that the Governor allow the operation of short term vacation rentals as part of Phase 1. Today we are revisiting that request while providing a plan to reopen short term vacation rentals in a responsible and safe manner.

Vacation rentals offer safer lodging options than hotels and do more to promote social distancing as it minimizes interaction with staff members, and guests typically have access to kitchens providing them the opportunity to stay in rather than eat out. We are including "Santa Rosa County's Plan to Reopen Short Term Vacation Rentals" for your consideration and approval.

I am available to discuss this matter further and will provide any additional information you may need to approve our request. Thank you again for your time, leadership and support shown to the citizens of Santa Rosa County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Schebler".

Dan Schebler
County Administrator

Santa Rosa County Plan to Reopen Short Term Vacation Rentals

As a supplement to the Full Phase 1 reopening across the state of Florida, Santa Rosa County will implement the following additional measures to enable vacation/short term rental units to begin taking reservations and accepting check-ins the week of May 18th:

- Vacation rentals reservations and stays will be allowed from all U.S. states with a COVID-19 Case Rate less than 500 cases/100K residents as of May 14th (<https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html>).
 - Property owners and managers shall provide a report weekly to the Santa Rosa County Tourism Development Office (first report due 5/22/2020) which includes all reservations (Arrival/Departure dates) and home zip codes of renters.
- Property owners and managers will provide COVID-19 guidance of any local restrictions that are in place during the guest stay and other related local information. The county has posted online all current information related to such restrictions so that it can be easily accessible to lodging operators and guests 24/7.
- Property owners and managers will adhere to all Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) sanitation guidelines already in place as addressed under [61C-3.001 Sanitation and Safety Requirements of the transient lodging statutes](#).
- Property owners and managers will follow the [CDC related guidelines that are for public spaces, businesses, schools and homes](#) which expand upon the State of Florida & DBPR requirements already in place for safety and sanitation for all lodging.
 - Lodging should be allowed flexible time between stays based upon the use of CDC cleaning and sanitization procedures. Lodging units being cleaned are all different and some will take more time or less time, depending upon the size of the unit being sanitized.
- Signage will be placed at each property highlighting the cleaning protocols between stays.
- Property owners and managers should supply any and all employees or contractors with [CDC related safety guidance](#) while operating in the short term rental industry units to alleviate the transmission of the virus and provide further protection for employees and guests.
- Property owners and managers should supply guests with [CDC guidance](#) for guests traveling with pets and service/assistance animals if the property is pet friendly.
- Property owners and managers should also share [CDC resources](#) to any guest while staying in their units. These resources are available in multiple languages at the CDC website.

This plan will be reviewed at least bi-weekly and updated as necessary.