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Opinion

Increase rental options on Daytona's beachside| LETTERS

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I am writing as a resident of Daytona Beach, and as someone who has invested considerable time and money into providing affordable apartments on beachside. It's hard work finding and keeping suitable tenants and maintaining the properties. I have state and city licenses for my properties, and according to my tenants I'm a good landlord.

I have been following the discussion about the revitalization of beachside, and have heard the arguments against short term rentals. Here's why I support them. There is no long, drawn out eviction process involving the courts when guests don't follow the rules. The homeowner can throw out the offending guests and change the locks. Short term rentals provide more money to the property owners, allowing them to put more money back into their properties. Guests check out the property online and read the reviews. Bad reviews? No repeat or future guests. I imagine that the city would like the extra tax revenue.

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I have no plans to turn my apartments into short-term rentals. But I would be interested in buying houses on beachside and renting them short term. Given the cost of buying property and renovating, it doesn't make economic sense for me to turn these into long-term rentals. I'd never make a profit. So it's not true that short-term rentals will take away affordable housing; this so-called affordable housing is the problem on beachside. Rundown housing attracts tenants who won't complain about the property for fear of being evicted. We need to retool rundown properties to improve beachside.

There are lots of rules in place now for those of us who rent properties long term. Why not institute common sense rules for the folks who want to rent their properties short-term? Everyone wins.

Jim Ford, Daytona Beach