

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Vacation rentals offer home comforts

Over the last 10 years I have had many friends visit our area, and they have stayed in short-term vacation rentals. The desire for the comforts of home while on vacation was key to their decision to stay in our area instead of Orlando, and it would be a shame to think that in the future they might not be able to.

**Rebecca Doremus,  
Daytona Beach**

## Important option

Some readers have the wrong idea about short-term vacation rentals — stays of a few days to a few months in private homes — and what they bring to Daytona Beach. The main booking sites, vrbo.com and airbnb.com, offer guests the opportunity to rate their stay, and these

ratings are permanent. The market decides: If a short-term rental is a dump it will receive bad ratings, and no one will want to stay there.

I own long-term rental apartments in Daytona Beach and have licenses from the state and the city of Daytona Beach. I have had problem tenants over the years; it was costly and time-consuming to get rid of them as I had to file an eviction and hire an attorney. Guests staying in short-term rentals can have their stays terminated quickly for breaking their hosts' rules as they are not covered by landlord/tenant laws.

The owners who want short-term rentals in Daytona Beach are committed to having sensible regulations in place, much like the regulations already in place for certain long-term rentals. The city inspects these

properties every two years, and owners are required to fix any deficiencies before a rental license is issued.

The problem in Daytona Beach is that there are owners who rent their properties long-term and don't maintain their properties, and code enforcement is working hard to bring these properties into line. These are the problem properties, not short-term rental properties. No one is going to pay \$100-\$500 nightly to stay in a dump. If we want to attract families to Daytona Beach who will shop in our stores, eat in our restaurants and enjoy the attractions we need to have options other than hotels. Short-term rentals fill this need, making vacations at the beach more affordable.

**Donna O'Connor,  
Daytona Beach**