

America was made great because her people had the opportunity to work hard, serve their community, and become self-reliant. For the Volusia economy one of the many groups of business owners and entrepreneurs carrying on that tradition are the private property owners who rent, manage, and maintain their own properties as short term rental units for our visiting guests.

Volusia County is fortunate to have thousands of visitors a year who come to enjoy all we have to offer. These local business owners offer a popular alternative for vacationing families, race fans, and business travelers. That helps us expand our economy by bringing in more revenue to the pool. We should welcome the added economic stimulus this important member of our hospitality industry provides.

Privately owned short term rental properties are some of the best kept and managed options available to visitors. That's because the owners live on premise or close by in our community. The owners are part of the community and care about their own neighborhoods. They serve a need for travelers who prefer a more intimate private setting that are one of the safest lodging alternatives available.

Sine these lodging options are located in existing residential neighborhoods we must have sufficient enforceable regulation to protect the security, serenity, and value of the neighborhood. Many communities are finding these options are not intrusive because they are well regulated. Many homeowners are finding they enjoy the opportunity to provide additional income with their extra space. However, in Volusia, this is clearly not an option for absentee owners who never see their neighbors.

These local business owners also use local suppliers, accountants, lawyers, printers, and other local service providers instead of sending their money to big cities in other States. Volusia County and every municipality should be working with this well managed segment of the hospitality industry instead of putting up unnecessary road blocks that force them to spend so much of their income on attorneys. We can have reasonable regulations that allow them to serve our visitors while protecting the neighborhoods the owners actually live in.

Americans prefer fairness in business over government chosen winners and losers. I look forward to working with short term rental businesses to establish fair regulation that protects their neighborhoods. These property owners also deserve protection from unfair regulation designed to give advantage to other segments of the lodging industry. Let's unite the State, County and municipalities in making it the policy to work with our own residents. They bring in another income stream of outside money that benefits our economy.

Please encourage your family and friends traveling to Volusia County to consider this valuable resource before checking in somewhere else. We have many great alternatives for lodging here, let's help them all be as safe, inviting, and economically healthy as possible.

Best regards,

Jeff Brower
DeLeon Springs, FL
July 20, 2020