



NEWS RELEASE

San Bernardino County
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Board of Supervisors Increases Fines for Vacation Rental Violations

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an emergency ordinance to increase fines for violations of the county’s Short-Term Rental (STR) ordinance during their June 22 board meeting. The new fine amounts go into effect immediately for all unincorporated areas of the county.

Under the previous fine schedule, vacation rental hosts were subject to a \$100 fine for a first offense, a \$200 fine for a second offense, and a \$500 fine for a third offense within a 12-month period. The new fine structure calls for a \$1,000 fine for a first offense, a \$2,000 fine for a second offense, and a \$5,000 fine for a third offense during the same period of time.

“Short-Term Rentals provide desperately needed income and opportunities to our local workforce, which includes many who work for businesses that support the vacation rental industry. However, the vacation rental boom attracted outside investors who may not understand the impact non-compliance has on our rural communities. The failure of some hosts to comply with the county’s current ordinance resulted in a significant amount of complaints from residents who are frustrated by the nuisances vacation rental guests create,” said Supervisor Dawn Rowe. “I supported increasing penalties because it became increasingly clear the previous fine amounts weren’t enough to gain compliance from gross violators of our STR ordinance.”

During Tuesday’s meeting, the Board of Supervisors also adopted a new fine amount for hosts who operate STRs without obtaining the appropriate permit from the county. The county will begin assessing a \$1,000 fine for every day a vacation rental operates without proper approval.

“Many hosts go to great lengths and expense to play by the rules and be good neighbors, but the Board of Supervisors needs to send a message to STR hosts who are non-compliant that they need to respect our established laws or face steep repercussions,” added Rowe.

The STR penalty enhancements come on the heels of recent actions by the county to crack down on frequent violators of county code. Earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors announced it would appropriate \$10.4 million in “Community Concerns” funding, a term used to describe illegal activities that include cannabis cultivation, commercial truck parking in residential areas, and trespassing problems in mountain communities during snow play season.

The Board of Supervisors also directed county staff to make additional recommendations for future amendments to the STR ordinance. However, those changes would need to go through the normal ordinance process, which requires approval of the county’s Planning Commission, before any consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

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