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PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH TO BEGIN NOTIFICATION PROCESS OF SCHEDULED MAGISTRATE HEARINGS AND NOTICES TO COMPLY FOR ILLEGALLY OPERATING VACATION RENTALS

On September 5, 2024, the City of Indian Rocks Beach issued a press release notifying the public that enhanced enforcement procedures would begin related to illegally operating vacation rentals. Three weeks later the City of Indian Rocks Beach was severely impacted by two hurricanes. As a result, IRB Team Members, including our Code Enforcement Team were primarily tasked with assisting the public with navigating the permitting and recovery process. Thankfully, the City of Indian Rocks Beach has recovered to the point that the Code Enforcement Team can now focus their efforts on their primary mission.

On May 9, 2023, the City of Indian Rocks Beach City Commission adopted Ordinance 2023-02, regulating the operation of vacation rentals in the City. The Ordinance provides for a variety of requirements including registering with the City, completing registration forms, property inspections and paying registration fees. In addition to other ongoing measures, the City of Indian Rocks Beach will begin providing notice of violations to operators of vacation rentals that it reasonably believes to be in violation to Ordinance 2023-02. The operator will be given a notice of violation which may include a date to appear before a Code Enforcement Special Magistrate, depending on the nature of the violation. The Magistrate will review the facts and if the operator is found in violation of the City's ordinance, the Magistrate, may fine them up to \$250 per day until compliant, or up to \$5000 if the violation is irreparable or irreversible in nature.

All operators of vacation rentals are encouraged to take the necessary steps to register with the City of Indian Rocks Beach and comply with all applicable ordinances. Vacation Rental Applications may be accessed from the City's website at www.indian-rocks-beach.com. This process includes an inspection by the Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue District and City of Indian Rocks Beach Code Enforcement. There is a vacation rental tab on the City's website that provides a variety of information related to vacation rental requirements. Additional questions related to the vacation rental ordinance may be addressed to IRB Team Members by contacting the City of Indian Rocks Beach City Hall at 727-595-2517.

WORKING TOGETHER

727-595-2517

<u>www.indian-rocks-beach.com</u> www.facebook.com/City-of-Indian-Rocks-Beach