



TOWN OF FREEPORT, MAINE

Town Manager's Office
30 Main Street
Freeport, ME 04032

Phone: 207-865-4743
Email: pjoseph@freeportmaine.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: Freeport Town Council
FROM: Peter Joseph, Town Manager
DATE: 04/01/20
RE: Concerns regarding short term rentals during COVID-19 pandemic

I have been advised that individual Councilors have been contacted by residents expressing concern that short term rental properties in their neighborhoods were still being rented to visitors from out of state. While there are certainly some legitimate reasons why people may need to travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, there are also cases where some people may be choosing to travel for recreational or other non-essential purposes, against the recommendations of public health authorities.

It should be noted that towns and cities do not have the authority to prevent movement by people either into or within the State. However, several communities have issued non-binding guidance or recommendations, often in the form of a resolution, regarding travel and tourist activities.

If the Town Council wishes to take such action regarding short term rentals, I would suggest language similar to the following:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Freeport Town Council requests that local property owners refrain from hosting short term rentals for non-essential purposes during the duration of the Proclamation of State of Civil Emergency, as declared by Governor Janet Mills on March 15th, 2020.