



Georgetown County, South Carolina

NEWS RELEASE – COVID-19 #6

March 27, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgetown County limits short-term rentals

Georgetown County Council met in emergency session via phone this morning to enact a ban on short-term rentals during the COVID-19 crisis.

The ordinance adopted by council bans new short term rentals in all unincorporated areas of the county beginning at 12 a.m. March 28 and lasting until May 1. The action was one requested by many residents of the county over concerns about increased spread of Coronavirus resulting from an influx of visitors from other areas where the infection rate is much higher.

The ban applies to all accommodations businesses in unincorporated areas of the county, including but not limited to condos, hotels, beach houses, Airbnb, campgrounds, hunting cabins and other overnight lodgings. All are prohibited from accepting new reservations for any period of time through the end of April. Any exiting reservations for this time period must be modified or cancelled. Visitors currently checked in prior to 12 a.m. March 28 may remain through their existing reservation, but such reservations may not be extended. Any units consistently occupied by the same occupant since March 1 are exempt, but new occupants including family and friends cannot be added at the unit. Also excluded are short-term rentals for applicable health, government, military, law enforcement and other personnel responding to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.

Violation of the ordinance is punishable with a fine of \$200 or 30 days in jail for each day of violation.

Georgetown County declared a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 16. For more information or to view the emergency ordinance, visit www.gtcounty.org.

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