

## POMONA

# Short-term rentals hit with new regulations

Property owners will need to acquire a license and live in their homes for at least 60 days

By Javier Rojas  
jrojas@scng.com

It is now illegal for Pomona homeowners to rent their properties on a short-term basis if they don't actually live there.

The Pomona City Council last month unanimously passed new rules to address complaints about short-term rentals, such as excessive noise, parking problems and trash on surrounding properties.

Under the urgency ordinance adopted Jan. 23, the regulations

take effect immediately and the council may extend them within the next 10 months.

For months, residents have complained about raucous late-night parties, mainly on weekends, at short-term rental homes advertised on websites such as Airbnb and Vrbo for guests seeking a getaway or an event venue.

The parties disrupt neighbors' sleep, gobble up parking and trash the neighborhood, residents told Council member Steve Lusto, who requested the item be placed

before the council in October.

The issue became especially noticeable for residents in the Phillips Ranch neighborhood — located in Lusto's District 5 — where homes that sat empty weekdays became a hotbed for rowdy parties on weekends, according to the council member.

A quick online search of rental homes in Phillips Ranch showed overnight stays averaging \$700 to \$800 per night, Lusto said in an interview this month.

"There was increasing concerns from residents and they didn't want to see this activity become a common theme here," Lusto said. "At the very least, we'd

like to know that people are actually living in these homes, they're not just a place for parties."

To combat the issue, city staff on Jan. 23 presented to the City Council a comprehensive ordinance that would address the concerns by prohibiting un-hosted stays, where the homeowner resides off-site during a guest's stay.

Most notably, the ordinance establishes a short-term rental license and registration process with eligibility requirements.

This includes that the applicant must have lived in that home for a minimum of 90 days prior to applying for a permit and have received a clearance letter from the

city verifying that the property is zoned for residential use.

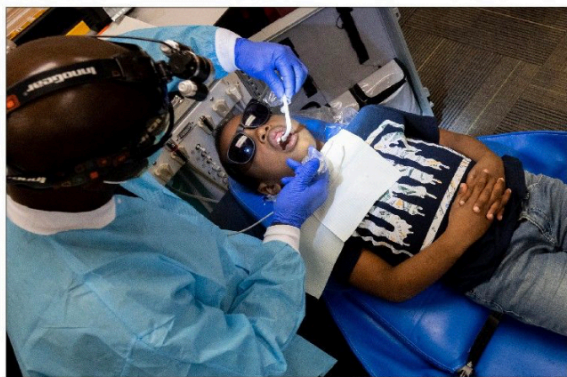
Short-term rentals in the city also will now be confined to exclusively overnight stays, meaning rentals for weddings, receptions, parties and swimming pool-only rentals will be banned.

Other approved regulations for short-term rental owners include a requirement to provide a 24-hour emergency contact that will respond on-site if requested within 30 minutes to complaints about the condition, operation or conduct of renters or their guests.

There also are specific guide-

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## HEALTH CARE



Kindergarten King Watson, 6, gets his teeth cleaned by Dr. Travis Tramel during a pop-up dental office visit at Roberts Elementary in San Bernardino on Thursday.

# Youngsters open wide for free dental checkup

Smile SBC and First 5 San Bernardino kick off 'Little Teeth, Big Responsibility' campaign

By Brian Whitehead  
bwhitehead@scng.com

A pop-up dental office at Roberts Elementary School in San Bernardino taught youngsters and their parents the importance of pediatric oral health.

Smile SBC and First 5 San Bernardino kicked off their "Little Teeth, Big Responsibility" campaign Thursday by giving dozens of transitional kindergartners and kindergartners no-cost dental assessments and dental report cards.

Potter the Otter joined the morning festivities to promote National Children's Dental Health Month.

Two out of three kindergartners in San Bernardino County have tooth decay, according to a 2018 survey by Smile SBC and the Center for Oral Health.

While baby teeth are temporary, they help children chew and talk correctly and form healthy adult teeth. Toddlers with healthy teeth tend to perform better in school, according to research.



Students participate in an oral health education session during the launch of "Little Teeth, Big Responsibility" on Thursday. Two out of three kindergartners in San Bernardino County have tooth decay, according to a 2018 survey.

## FONTANA

# School detective is back on the job

Officer was placed on paid leave 9 months ago after allegations of misconduct against students

By Joe Nelson  
jnelson@scng.com

A Fontana Unified School District police detective who was placed on paid administrative leave last year pending an investigation into alleged years-long misconduct has returned to work after a nine-month leave.

School district spokesman Michael A. Garcia confirmed that Detective David Wibert returned to work Jan. 17. And on Wednesday, Fontana Unified's Board of Education was set to vote on a recommendation to promote Wibert to sergeant, but the item was pulled from the agenda at the last minute for further discussion.

Wibert, who began working for the school district's police force in January 2008 and earned more than \$103,000 a year, was placed on paid leave April 13 after Officer Christian Shaw sent an email to former Superintendent David Bassett alleging several acts of misconduct by Wibert dating back at least a decade.

Bassett resigned his post during the investigation, but school district officials would not say why.

Wibert's colleague and superior, Sgt. Dennis Barnett, also was placed on paid administrative leave during the investigation, and returned to work Jan. 12, Garcia said.

It was unclear whether Barnett returned to work at a lower rank, however. Documents obtained by the Southern California News Group indicate he was demoted to the rank of police officer, but Garcia said in an email, "It is my understanding that Mr. Barnett, an employee of FUSD, is currently serving in the same position he was prior to his leave."

In his email to Bassett last year, Shaw said there were "countless claims of aggression and poor behavior" filed against Wibert over the years. A recommendation by Barnett to promote Wibert to sergeant prompted Shaw's email.

Among the allegations were that Wibert punched a Summit High School student in the stomach about a decade earlier in front of a

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## HISTORY

# Riverside was fired up to buy these 19th century bricks

I don't know whether I could sell ice to Alaskans, but it looks like I can sell old bricks to Riverside.

The 30 unsold bricks from the old Loring Opera House that were in the possession of the Old Riverside Foundation were featured in my column Wednesday.

By 10 a.m. that morning, all 30 bricks had sold.

"The phone was ringing off the hook this morning," Dave Stolte, presi-



David Allen  
Columnist

dent of the Old Riverside Foundation, after selling the last brick.

"I changed our voicemail: 'If you're calling about the bricks, they're all gone! Someone was calling as I was changing our voicemail,'" Stolte added.

Yes, bricks were flying, and we can only hope no one was injured.

"You missed your calling," reader Mike Hudson told me by email. "You

could have been a used brick salesman instead of a columnist."

It's hard to say which career has a more dismal future, but at least I have options.

Since interest was so high in this brickling, er, breaking news, let me expand on my account from Wednesday about why these bricks were still around.

The opera house building — better known as the Golden State Theater, its use from 1927-1973 — on Mission Inn Avenue down-

town suffered a devastating fire in late 1990 and was demolished within days as a safety hazard.

On the plus side, thousands of bricks were salvaged. In April 1991, six months after the fire, came an event downtown with a whimsical name: "The Mayor's Brick Thing for the Arts: From Ashes to Arts." Ruth McCormick of the Main Library dug up the flyer for me.

"Hopes for restoring the Loring Opera House were dashed in October 1990 when it was destroyed

by arson," the flyer reads. "Bricks sold from its site represent not only a sentimental value and a memento of the community's history but also a first effort toward raising funds for the support of city arts facilities."

Bricks with a commemorative plaque went for \$25 each to benefit the Municipal Auditorium, Riverside Art Museum and the Fox Theater.

More of these commemorative bricks were sold in 1992 specifically to fund improvements at the au-

ditorium, again under the auspices of then-mayor Terry Frizzell.

And, according to a 1993 Press-Enterprise article, one couple bought bricks in bulk.

For their home west of Temecula, constructed and furnished with salvaged parts and in the spirit of the lodgepodge Mission Inn, George and Debra Natale bought 10,000 Loring bricks.

I can only marvel at how many bricks must have made up the Loring

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