

City of Big Bear Lake

Civic and Performing Arts Center
39707 Big Bear Boulevard, Big Bear Lake CA 92315



For Immediate Release

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Council Orders Economic Impact Report for PHR Initiative

BIG BEAR LAKE, CA – At their regular meeting on February 12, Big Bear Lake City Council directed staff to compile an economic impact report for the proposed Private Home Rental (PHR) Initiative submitted to the City. Pursuant to Elections Code 9212, the report must be submitted within the next thirty days, which will place it for review on the March 12 Council Meeting Agenda. The report will address how the proposed ordinance would: fiscally impact the City; effect the City's general and specific plans, including the housing element; effect land use; impact the community's ability to attract and retain business and employment; impact vacant parcels; impact open space, traffic congestion, existing business districts and developed areas designated for revitalization.

More than one hundred members of the community attended the February 12 Council meeting and several made public comments regarding the proposed initiative. Recognizing how valuable public input is on the issue, Council directed staff to address several other areas in the report, including effect on 1031 tax exchanges for persons who purchase secondary homes as investment opportunities; effect on IA and Fire Protection Districts funds (if any) should TOT tax revenue decline; expectation of visitors to the area in regards to accommodation preference (private home rentals, lodges, Bed & Breakfasts, etc.) and relevance of private property rights under Federal Law.

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In order to ensure impartiality, the City, thru its legal counsel of Best, Best & Krieger, LLP, will hire a third party / economist to conduct the report. The petition for the PHR Initiative was submitted to the City on December 7 of last year, with 373 signatures (12% of registered voters in the City) found to be valid. Once the Council receives the economic impact report, they will have the option of adopting the proposed ordinance as is or placing it on the next general election ballot, scheduled for November 4, 2008.

The City of Big Bear Lake is a four-season resort located in the heart of the San Bernardino National Forest, approximately 30 miles northeast of San Bernardino. The City serves a population of 6,500 residents and covers a 6.95 square mile area on the west end of Big Bear Lake's south shore. Recreation is offered year-round, including skiing, boating, fishing, camping, hiking, golf and fine dining.

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