The Santa Barbara City Planning Commission will hold a public meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2015 to discuss potential amendments to the Santa Barbara Municipal Code to define, permit, regulate and tax short-term home sharing rentals.

Short-term home sharing rentals occur when a resident hosts visitors in their home for less than 30 consecutive days. Although guests pay a nightly fee, typically, the primary resident is present during a short-term home sharing rental. The potential ordinance amendments would define when, where, how and under what conditions short-term home sharing rentals could be allowed in the City.

Currently, all residential short-term rentals (stays of less than 30 consecutive days) that are not properly permitted as hotels, motels or bed and breakfasts are in violation of the Zoning Ordinance.

On August 11, 2015, the City Council initiated the Ordinance Amendment to consider allowing short-term home sharing rentals in the City. The Council directed staff to work with the Planning Commission to determine the potential scope and parameters of the ordinance amendment. The Council also requested that staff and the Planning Commission consider the potential enforcement challenge of any possible short-term home sharing rental regulations.

The purpose of this meeting is for the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing and discuss the opportunities, challenges and enforcement issues regarding short-term home sharing rentals. The Planning Commission will be asked to make a recommendation to Council about the feasibility and scope of a short-term home sharing rental ordinance.

You are invited to attend this hearing and address your verbal comments to the Planning Commission. Written information should be submitted prior to the meeting at the Planning Division Office, 630 Garden St; by mail attention Planning Commission Secretary, P.O. Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990; or by email at PCSecretary@SantaBarbaraCA.gov, and received no later than 4:30 P.M. on the Monday before the Planning Commission hearing. Please submit 12 copies of any written materials over two pages. Written comments are accepted at and up to the time of the hearing; however, the Planning Commission may not have time to consider materials submitted after the Monday deadline.

The City has created a web page for this work effort: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/VacationRentals. This web page can also be used to sign up for updates and notices of future meetings.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you need auxiliary aids or services or staff assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator’s Office at (805) 564-5305. If possible, notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will usually enable the City to make reasonable
arrangements. Specialized services, such as sign language interpretation or documents in Braille, may require additional lead time to arrange.

* NOTE: On Thursday, October 8, 2015, an Agenda for the Thursday, October 15, 2015, will be available at 630 Garden Street and online at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/PC. Meetings can be viewed live on City TV-18, or on your computer at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CityTV. A rebroadcast schedule can be found at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/CityTVProgramGuide.