



**TO:** Members of the City of Fort Pierce Planning Board

**THROUGH:** Rebecca Grohall, AICP, Planning Director

**FROM:** Vennis Gilmore, Planning Analyst

**RE:** **Application for Conditional Use**  
**Mitchell Dwelling Rental**  
**401 Southstar Drive**

**DATE:** January 3, 2018

**STAFF REPORT**

**Owner/Applicant:** Coldwell Banker Paradise – Lisa Cataline  
 100 Mainsail  
 Fort Pierce, FL. 34949

**Applicant’s Request:** Approval of a Conditional Use to operate a Dwelling Rental, offering lodging for less than six months. The identified minimum rental period is identified as one (1) month.

**Location:** 401 Southstar Drive

**Parcel ID:** 2518-666-0048-000-0

**Current Zoning:** Hutchinson Island Medium Density Residential Zone (R4-A)

**Future Land Use:** Hutchinson Island Residential (HIR)

**Surrounding Zoning:**

North	East	South	West
R4-A	R4-A	OS-1	R-1, HIRD (SLC)

**Site Size:** .02 acres

**Utilities:** FPUA

## **Staff Analysis:**

### ***Request***

In accordance with Sections 22-22, and 22-76 of the City Code, the applicant is requesting the review and approval of a Conditional Use to operate a Dwelling Rental at 401 Southstar Drive, to offer lodging of less than six (6) months and a minimum of one (1) to guests. The subject property consists of a townhome residence. The townhome structure is a one-story townhome with a finished floor area of 1,553 square feet, containing three (3) bedrooms, two (2) bathrooms and traditional support rooms. There is driveway for parking of two (2) vehicles and a garage. The property is located within the Ocean Village Community. Ocean Village is a gated planned-community that is nestled on approximately 120 acres with approximately 3,500 feet of beach frontage. Ocean Village offers 24 hour security; a Par-3 9-Hole Executive Golf Course; Tennis Courts; Heated Swimming Pools; Jacuzzi; Sauna; Fitness Center; Card Room; Library with wi-fi; and clubhouses. The property is zoned Hutchinson Island Medium Density Residential Zone (R4-A).

The property is located north of Blue Heron Blvd; west of Southpointe Drive. The site is surrounded by single family residences to the east.

### ***Dwelling Rentals***

Pursuant to City Code Section 22-3. - Definitions—Generally, the rental of any dwelling unit for less than six (6) months, is classified as a “Dwelling rental (dwelling unit)”, and defined as follows: One or more rooms connected together in a building, constituting a separate, independent housekeeping establishment, other than a motel/hotel, for purposes of rental on a daily, weekly, or longer basis, though less than what is otherwise provided for a dwelling, physically separated from any other rooms or dwelling units which may be in the building, and containing sleeping and sanitary facilities and one kitchen.

The State of Florida provides further classification of a dwelling is rented for periods of less than one (1) month, declaring the use a “Vacation rental”, and defined such use as any unit or group of units in a condominium or cooperative or any individually or collectively owned single-family, two-family, three-family, or four-family house or dwelling unit that is also a transient public lodging establishment but that is not a timeshare project, which is rented to guests more than three times in a calendar year for periods of less than 31 days or 1 calendar month, whichever is less, or which is advertised or held out to the public as a place regularly rented to guests.

A dwelling rental, as locally defined, is also a Vacation Rental if the duration of stays are less than one (1) month. The rental of a dwelling for periods at a minimum of one (1) month, but less than six (6) months is a dwelling rental, but not a Vacation Rental.

Table 1, below, presents general characteristics to clarify Dwelling Rentals, and the transitioning threshold for Vacation Rentals.

**Table 1 – Dwelling & Vacation Rental Definitions**

	<b>Dwelling Rental</b>	<b>Vacation Rental</b>
<b><i>Length of Stay</i></b>	Less than 6 months	30 days or less
<b><i>Lodging Type(s)</i></b>	Non-Transient (more than 30 days)	Transient Lodging
<b><i>State License Requirement</i></b>	If rented 30 days or less (Vacation Rental)	Division of Hotels & Restaurants – Vacation Rental License
<b><i>Public lodging establishment (ADA &amp; Misc. Regulations)</i></b>	If rented 30 days or less (Vacation Rental)	Public lodging establishment

***Zoning & Land Use***

The subject site is located within the Hutchinson Island Medium Density Residential Zone (R4-A) district which is designed to establish height and density regulations for lands located within the city which are situated east of the Indian River. The R-4A zone is compatible with the Medium Density Residential Hutchinson Island designation in the comprehensive plan. Permitted gross residential densities in this district may not generally exceed eight (8) units per acre. Bonus density of up to one additional unit per acre is available as provided for in this section. This district is established because Hutchinson Island is a sensitive barrier island which presents development considerations which are either unique to the area or are of added concern, such as environmental fragility, beach erosion, and hurricane evacuation.

The Hutchinson Island Residential (HIR) designation is intended for parcels that are best suited for residential development on Hutchinson Island. This future land use category allows single-family detached and attached units, duplexes and multifamily residences at densities ranging up to 8 dwelling units per acre. Limited public uses and commercial uses that are compatible with the surrounding development shall also be allowed. The previous “Medium Density Residential Hutchinson Island (Rmhi)” has been renamed.

**Traffic & Parking**

The traffic generation from the proposed use is undetermined based upon numerous variables present, and the absence of complete data by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Trip Generation Manuel. Review of similar uses of this scale, in comparison to impacts of a multifamily housing development, suggest an insignificant effect overall evaluation; however the absence of maximum occupancy, occurrence of short lengths of stay, and frequency of cleaning services are variables that may concentrate trips during seasonal months and weekends, causing elevated traffic impacts during such times.

Pursuant to City Code Section 22-60 (d), b. Motels, hotels and resort hotels shall provide 1.6 spaces for each unit 500 square feet or larger. The subject site features driveway space for two (2) vehicles and one (1) additional vehicle in the garage.

### **Conditional Use**

The purpose of the conditional use process is to allow, when desirable, uses that would not be appropriate generally or without restriction throughout the particular zoning district, but which, if controlled as to number, area, location or relation to the neighborhood, would not adversely affect the public health, safety, comfort, good order, appearance, convenience and the general welfare. The use as presented features commercial aspects that are not generally appropriate for single-family, low-density environments.

The authorization of a Conditional Use to establish a dwelling rental for periods of less than six (6) months, but greater than one (1) month would provide an opportunity for consistency with zoning district and land use designation as the use becomes non-transient, minimizing the commercial nature of the use and potential impacts to the surrounding residential neighborhood. The further limitation of other leading effects of the use may provide greater assimilation of the short-term rental within a single-family district.

### **Technical Review Committee**

All affected departments have reviewed the proposed Conditional Use with regards requirements of the City Code. Findings from the review by corresponding departments and the associated responses by the applicant are provided for viewing by the Planning Board.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

The proposed use presents the provision of limited transient lodging accommodations to the general public, representing a limited commercial use that is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood of this location, and is generally consistent with the City's Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan with appropriate restriction therefore; Staff recommends the Planning Board forward a recommendation to **approve** the request with the following conditions:

- 1) The maximum occupancy of the home does not exceed six (6) individuals; two individuals per bedroom, ensuring compliance with City Code Section 8.5-43. - Required space in dwelling units, based upon the size of each unit;
- 2) Registration of the property manager accessible at all times, to resolve complaints or violations of City Code;
- 3) Issuance of guide booklets (available from Code Enforcement) for renters regarding local rules and public service resources to minimize conflicts; and
- 4) The applicant files for and obtains St. Lucie County & City of Fort Pierce Business Tax Licenses within thirty (30) days of Conditional Use approval.
- 5) Limit no more than 2 vehicles (1 in the driveway, 1 in the garage).