





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**
Bifulci & Paglia Dwelling Rental
355 S. Ocean Drive #304

DATE: November 30, 2018

STAFF REPORT

Property Owner: Anne Bifulci & Giacomo Paglia
 Chemin des Traversins 3
 1285 Avusy
 Geneva, Switzerland

Applicant: Real Estate Expo – Nancy Rayborn
 140 S. Indian River Drive
 Fort Pierce, FL 34950

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 thirty-one (31) days.

Location(s): 355 S. Ocean Drive #304

Parcel ID: 2401-522-0013-000-4

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

Future Land Use: Hutchinson Island Residential (HIR)

Surrounding Zoning:

North	East	South	West
R-4A	R-4A	R4-A/C-5	R-4A

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 355 S. Ocean Drive #304 to offer lodging of less than six (6) months and a minimum of thirty-one (31) days to guests. The subject property is a part of the Avalon Beach Club Condominiums. The subject condo apartment contains (2) bedrooms and two and a half (2 1/2) bathrooms. The subject condo apartment has two (2) designated and paved parking spaces for the unit. The property is zoned Hutchinson Island Medium Density Residential Zone (R4-A).

The property is located at the northeast corner Hernando Street and Avalon Avenue. The subject site is surrounded by multi-family housing to the north, west, and south, and the Atlantic Ocean 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.

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 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 thirty-one (31) days. The rental of a dwelling for periods at a minimum of thirty-one (31) days, 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

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

Parking

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 condo features two (2) parking spaces for the unit.

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 thirty-one (31) days 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.

According to the HOA documents of the Avalon Beach Club; No trade, business, profession or other type of commercial activity may be conducted in any unit. No Unit may be leased more than two (2) times in any twelve (12) month period.

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 ensures 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.
- 6) Include the City of Fort Pierce Business Tax License number on all advertising.