

HISTORY OF THE ERICSON HOUSE

We own a short-term rental by Whittier College called, “The Ericson House”. I named it after my grandparents who bought the house from its original owner in 1937. I grew up at the Ericson House, staying overnight with my grandmother, playing Scrabble and Gin Rummy with her, and celebrating family birthdays and holidays there. Because of my joyful memories in this house, I wanted to honor my grandparents by using their house for the most noble purpose possible. The highest, most noble purpose I could think of was opening the house to other families so they could experience the same joy I grew up with in this house. Therefore, I designed the house to be family-friendly including a Bunkbed Game Room where we combine traditional board games with children’s books and children’s video games, a living room with a space to sit together and play Monopoly, Clue or Lincoln Logs, and furry stuffed animal décor. Now I’d like to address why family-friendly short-term vacation rentals benefit Whittier.

THE ERICSON HOUSE DOES NOT COMPETE WITH HOTELS:

At least 85% of the Ericson House guests are families with 2 to 4 children and some of these families also include grandparents. What these families have in common is the desire to travel together to see LA and Orange County or to visit relatives. Because our guests are extended families with young children, they would rent a house in a different city before they would stay in a hotel. Therefore, our customer base is a different demographic from that which hotels thrive on.

THE ERICSON HOUSE IMPROVES ITS NEIGHBORHOOD

As the trustee of a family-owned long-term residential rental property business since 1963, I am qualified to compare long-term and short-term rentals. Owners of long-term rentals may visit the property

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infrequently and building upgrades -- as well as gardening -- may be neglected. In contrast, owners of vacation-rentals are motivated to upgrade and beautify their house and grounds at least in part because they are scrutinized by widely-read reviews, which affect earnings. At the Ericson House, we clean and do *routine* maintenance of the house and gardens at a cost of about \$275 a week. This constant maintenance improves our house and neighborhood, and consequently our neighbors love the Ericson House. In fact, two neighbors often praise us. One neighbor said to me, "I was wrong about vacation rentals. Your guests are great." Another neighbor often tells me how wonderful our guests are.

OUR VACATION RENTAL CONTRIBUTES TO WHITTIER

Our guests bring business to Whittier because they shop at our grocery stores, and they dine at our restaurants. As business owners who care about keeping Whittier safe and family-friendly, we renew our Whittier business license each year and we participate in city politics.

WE SUPPORT PRO-FAMILY PUBLIC POLICY

AirBNB awarded "Plus" status to the Ericson House, and they awarded super-host status to Mark & me. We have over 200 five-star reviews with a 4.99 total. Given these accolades, you might be surprised to learn a family of six can stay at the Ericson House for a very reasonable price of about \$199 per night, making comfortable family travel available to families of various income levels. This is one reason why the Ericson House is usually fully booked up to 9 months in advance. By supporting family-friendly vacation rentals like the Ericson House, Whittier is opening its heart to families worldwide who want to travel together. These rentals are good business for Whittier and they support pro-family public policy. I hope Whittier continues to support family values in this way.