



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### SOUTH PADRE ISLAND NOT THE ONLY CITY TO ESTABLISH STRICTER REGULATIONS FOR HOT TAX

South Padre Island, TX – October 8, 2015: The City of South Padre Island adopted the new City Ordinance 15-03 in April to get all Short-term rental (STR) property owners to obtain permit numbers for their properties. The new Ordinance was initiated to bring awareness that STR property owners must be registered to pay their Hotel Occupancy Tax and report their tax payments monthly.

The need to bring STR property owners into compliance with Hotel Occupancy Tax is not only being recognized in South Padre Island, but in other Texas Cities as well. A San Antonio news article recently reported that, “Local hoteliers are pushing for stricter regulations of home rentals made through websites such as Airbnb and HomeAway, suspecting that some property owners are skirting the city’s hotel and occupancy tax.”

To date, the City of South Padre Island has 2,216 rental properties now in compliance and the City is working diligently to ensure that property owners and rental managers are reporting monthly tax revenues. City Ordinance No. 15-03 Sec. 11-222 (a) states, “Pursuant to Sec. 17-10 of the city code, the Owner or Operator shall, submit a monthly report to the City, on the appropriate Hotel Occupancy Tax Collection Report form, even if the short term rental unit was not rented during any such month”.

South Padre Island has begun working with UTRGV to identify STR units not in compliance with the City Ordinance, and continues to see improved compliance by the property owners.

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Reference:

<http://ireader.olivesoftware.com/Olive/iReader/SanAntonioExpressNews/SharedArticle.ashx?document=SAE N%5C2015%5C10%5C08&article=Ar00114>