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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND ENTERING SECOND PHASE OF HOT ENFORCEMENT**

**South Padre Island, TX – September 25, 2015:** This summer the City of South Padre Island passed City Ordinance No. 15-03, requiring the registration of all short-term rentals, in order to enforce the collection of HOT tax and bring balance between rental property owners on the island.

Since its final compliance date, and with the continuing efforts of City Staff to identify and contact units that are not in compliance, City Ordinance No. 15-03 has seen much success with over 2,100 units registered. "We've been very successful in getting people to register their units with this new ordinance. Now we want to be sure that everyone is making their monthly tax payments," said City Manager Bill DiLibero.

Dedicated City Staff are now set to begin its auditing phase of City Ordinance No. 15-03, which means that they will review the summers monthly HOT reports and compare that to the record of units registered for short-term rental permits. 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". Any person(s) who are found to be registered for a short-term rental permit but have not been submitting monthly HOT reports to the city will be contacted and advised that they could potentially face up to \$500 dollars in fines for each violation of City Ordinance No. 15-03. The City wants to be sure that persons owning or managing the rental of short-term rental units are paying their mandatory hotel occupancy (HOT) Tax.

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