



TOV – GIS Map of the Town of Vail (linked)

# Letters to Vail

## VAIL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

### Vail Workforce Housing – Changing Community – Part 4

March 26, 2024

**Accounting for job and worker numbers:** VHA has made repeated attempts to gain access to a public accounting of the number of beds, pillows and parking spaces currently available for habitation by Vail workers. How many of these are occupied by those working outside Vail and where? Also requested is an accounting of the number of jobs needed within the Town of Vail and on Vail Mountain to serve the present and forecasted resident and visitor populations, all without success.

**Residential Occupancy:** There are often commercial pressures to create housing for a captive labor force in resorts. Much of the community's manpower will continue to be hands on. Service and recreation industry jobs cannot be outsourced or performed from remote locations. Remote workers who occupy housing subsidized by TOV are more likely to be detached and insensitive to the needs of the community and the challenges of the local lifestyle.

Unprecedented changes affecting work ethic and the work place are powered by digital networking, social media and technology. A 'permanent' workforce held to inflexible performance requirements that corporate or government jobs require is less acceptable to emerging generations. Collective bargaining is making inroads in the sports, recreation, and tourism industries.

The concept of a stable, non-migratory community, once the hallmark of stability, is rapidly evolving. Part-time occupation is reflective of the changing lifestyle of the highly mobile population demographic that Vail serves. The differentiation between full and part-time residency or employment is no longer as relevant in defining community. The glue that holds the community together is the joint participation in the community, locally or via the media.

Seasonal and part-time residents, whether short or long-term, working locally or otherwise, will continue to dominate Vail's housing economy. A mix of residential occupancy energizes the local economy. Manipulating the amount of time the community's inventory of housing is occupied via marketing initiatives, as it now does for tourists, may offer the quickest and least expensive path to housing the resort workforce. Marketing messages could be used to attract a diversity of inhabitants to live and work in Vail. Taking this approach could reduce the need for divisive regulatory intervention into the rights of property owners.

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VHA serves the Vail community with information, having a perspective not readily found elsewhere. Our publications and activities are funded by membership dues and contributions from paid-subscribers and readers. By joining with VHA as a member, paid-subscriber or reader, you can add your voice to sustain what is good about our community and to shine a spotlight on important issues.

VHA strives to provide clear and concise discussion of matters affecting the Vail community in the belief that an informed citizenry will be an engaged citizenry. Our intent is to promote more citizen involvement and community discussion of issues facing the Town. If this is an issue that concerns you, please make your views known to [town officials](#).

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