

October 28,2025

Dear Members of Council;

You are aware of the workshop planned by the Beach & Coastal Resources Committee, planned for November 19. This is an excellent opportunity for a broad discussion on the challenges facing beach management in general and it presents an opportunity to lay the groundwork for a revision to the ordinance that governs beach activities on Marco Island. The ordinance was written prior to the expansion of the Marriott and many of the activities that are apparently now permitted on the beach. A summary of the ordinance content is found at <https://www.cityofmarcoisland.com/page/beach-code-ordinances> .

As a regular user of the beach, and living in a beach-facing condominium I see a number of Issues as worthy of consideration, and these are described below, in no particular order.

1. I made a public comment at the B&CR meeting this month regarding the permitting of seemingly any number of vehicles on the beach. Why are there so many? Vehicles on the beach are supposed to operate at low tire pressure. This is recommended by Florida Fish & wildlife. Vehicles operating with tire pressure at street-appropriate pressures lack the ability to grip the sand surface. I assure you this is totally disregarded from an enforcement perspective, and in fact Code Enforcement disregards this in their own vehicles. You may recall the Marriott asked for a permit to regrade their section of beach during Sea turtle season this year. In fact, I believe much of the damage to their beach is the result not just inappropriate over use of the beach, but over pressure in the vehicles of inappropriate weight being on the beach in the first place. Relating to tire pressure, vehicles so operated are (a) dangerous because they can slide, particularly on a wet surface and (b) damage the structure of the sand through a higher pounds per square inch exerted in the tire contact area. So, regulation and enforcement of regulations regarding beach vehicles requires re-examination.

2. Shark Fishing. You can be sure this will come up again as a commercial activity. The use of drones to spot sharks should already be unlawful according to the city web page. Let's tighten up the wording on that subject.

3. Code Enforcement in general. I have already mentioned beach-permitted vehicles (there are too many) working at too high of a tire pressure. Who enforces the regulations? why do we see city vehicles patrolling the beach when no one is on it? I'm all for emergency vehicles having access to the beach, which they do. But what we see is an inappropriate use of City resources. What is the purpose to the Code patrols. I hear people say that "it's good for visitor public relations". Really? Then let the County supply PR patrols funded with

the TDC money they collect. It's not a logical law enforcement function. Let CE enforce code: vehicle safety, turtle lighting in season. If CE are having patrols, then let them be in small vehicles parked at MICA beach in the unused building already there for that purpose, which was reconstructed after Hurricane Ian. I'm told the lack of air-conditioned vehicles is regarded as an issue, but is that a legitimate reason for not using similar vehicles used by County staff for South Beach maintenance? I know of no other community anywhere that features routine patrols from law enforcement vehicles. Why is this performed on Marco Island?

4. This one is for discussion with the County. The majority of Marco beach (down as far as the Madeira condominium) is groomed almost daily by the County, and paid for by TDC funds. Why is this performed so regularly? The evidence is that this fails to eliminate weeds growing in the sand. The perpetual grooming loosens sand and this blows away even in modest winds. Think of the pulverization of farm land that led to the dust bowl in the mid-west, this is directly analogous to that. Trekking through the loose sand from the land side to the water is almost impossible after grooming, particularly for those with mobility issues. And finally, ploughing so close to the water line leads to a gradient in the sand, i.e. it's a steep drop from the end of the ploughed area down to the waterline, which makes walking along the waterline challenging. Co-incidentally, this is an activity popular with tourists staying at the hotels. Daily grooming adds nothing of value and in fact has the opposite effect to that intended. It's a waste of resources and at times a hazard to certain residents.

5. Beach structures for storage vendor equipment. There are now requests from companies operating beach equipment rentals to construct permanent structures. In the first place, these companies are hired by the hotels, not the city. Who would own these hypothetical structures and who pays for them? Who pays for their upkeep? What are they proposing to store? Who maintains rodent control? What happens at the end of the contract, supposing a hotel might change vendors? Second, Dept of Environmental Protection (FDEP) does not generally permit such structures, and would need to grant a variance, as per the Coastal Construction Control Line. <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coastal-construction-control-line> and I quote from this web site: The **Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL)** Program regulates structures and activities that can cause beach erosion, destabilize dunes, damage upland properties or interfere with public access. CCCL permits also protect sea turtles and dune plants". Let's keep it that way.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Andrew Tyler

North Collier Boulevard.