



SOUTH WALTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BEACH ACTIVITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

Increased Code Enforcement

Issue: Numerous code violations are witnessed on the beach with no apparent enforcement or consequence, even when a Code Enforcement truck drives by.

Clear Takeaway: Increased Code Enforcement officers are needed to increase their presence on the beach, especially during high season.

Potential Solutions:

1. Increase code enforcement manpower with more ATVs and officers on foot on the beach, especially during high season. These additional code enforcement officers could be used for general non-beach code enforcement duties during the slow season. Also, consider training and deputizing a select group of Volunteer Beach Ambassadors to supplement code enforcement resources and compensate them for increased responsibility.
2. Change the code enforcement approach from requesting compliance and leaving the scene to demanding immediate compliance and staying to ensure it happens. Also, identify certain violations that are response driven with immediate action taken by code enforcement officers.
3. Expand the web-based app for registering complaints to include monitoring code enforcement action follow up and timeliness of responses.
4. Create a framework where all rules are enforced consistently whether on public or “private” property. If beachfront owners expect code enforcement to respond to violations on “their beaches”, they must also allow code enforcement officers on “their beaches” without getting their permission to monitor and address violations.

Managed Beach Vendor Program

Issue: This is a major irritant to visitors and residents alike. The current model is not working, and major restructuring is needed. Empty chairs and chairs aligned at the water’s edge are the biggest issue along with storage of equipment on the beach.

Clear Takeaway: A managed beach vendor program is desperately needed, especially on public beaches.

Potential Solutions:

1. Establish a small committee consisting of representatives of the public, vendors, and TDC to create a managed vendor program, which incorporates the items noted below.
2. Limit the number of beach vendor permits issued by the county.
3. Require business licenses and background checks on all beach vendors.
4. Allow beach vendors at Regional Accesses only, no Neighborhood Accesses with beaches that are too narrow. Beachgoers can easily rent equipment from vendors and take it to and from the beach each day at any of these Neighborhood Accesses.
5. Implement service contracts with beach vendors to limit operations at Regional Beach Accesses to one vendor per access. Vendors would be selected via a bid process conducted by the county. The selected vendors would pay the county a flat fee and a percentage of revenue for the right to vend on the beach. This income could be used to cover the increased costs of hiring additional code enforcement officers and make other improvement to beach accesses if there are excess funds after paying for the increase in code enforcement staff.
6. As part of their contracts, the vendors must commit to have attendants on site, so they can set-up when customers arrive and take down when customers leave. Prime set-up locations on the beach should be based on the first-come, first-served concept.
7. Alternatively, the county could assume all responsibility for the beach chair setup operations on public beaches. This would ensure compliance with the vendor rules as well as be a source of revenue to pay for the increase in code enforcement staff and potentially fund other beach related needs.
8. Implement a set of operating regulations including but not limited to the following:
 - A. Identify specific vendor zones (% of beach and location on the beach);
 - B. Eliminate early morning beach chair setups;
 - C. Establish minimum setup distance from the water;
 - D. Require full time attendants at the beach, etc.

Trash Pickup and Code Enforcement on Beachfront Owner Property

Issue: Trash pickup and Code Enforcement has been disrupted due to the demands of certain beachfront property owners to not trespass on their “private beaches”.

Clear Takeaway: Reiterate our demand that the county resume trash collection and code enforcement on our beaches as they have customarily done for the past several decades.