

ORDINANCE 1585

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA, TEMPORARILY CLOSING A PORTION OF THE SANDY GULF BEACH FROM THE HOURS OF 10:00 P.M. TO 5:00 A.M.; PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Panama City Beach (“City”) is a municipality granted home rule authority pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Florida and may exercise its governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers for municipal purposes, including to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City is home to the world’s most beautiful beaches and serves as one of the nation’s premier tourist destinations to over 4 million visitors per year while also serving as the permanent home for approximately 18,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the City’s beautiful beaches continue to attract even larger crowds than in previous years; and

WHEREAS, based upon that experience the City has observed that the increase in the number of visitors has led to a corresponding increase in criminal activity, which in turn and combined with COVID-19’s effects on the City’s workforce is inordinately straining the City’s resources; and

WHEREAS, the circumstances set forth in 2020 led to a large increase in “pop-up events” on the sandy gulf beach in a densely populated area near the City’s eastern border wherein large groups of young people gather at night on the beach engaging in criminal activity, and creating unrest; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the circumstances creating a danger in 2020 continue today and present a danger to public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that a temporary late night closure of the sandy gulf beach in a specific geographic area, specifically while the City hosts a

high volume of visitors, will substantially advance the national, state, and local interest of mitigating the current threats to public safety in the City and allow the City to better protect its visitors from crime.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings proscribed below:

a. “Sandy Gulf Beach” means all loose or uncompacted sandy areas, including sand dunes and vegetated areas, lying between the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the seaward boundary of the seaward boundary of the seaward most public vehicular right of way.

b. “Beach access” means any public beach access points identified by the City Parks and Recreation Department, including associated boardwalks, walkways, and dedicated parking areas, and the area on the beach beginning at the entrance of the beach access point perpendicular with the applicable road right of way to the water's edge.

SECTION 2. CLOSING SANDY BEACH AND PUBLIC BEACH ACCESSES IN GEOGRAPHIC AREA. Beginning on March 1, 2022, and ending on April 30, 2022, the Sandy Gulf Beach and all beach accesses located in the geographic area depicted on the map attached hereto as Exhibit “A” are closed each day from the hours of 10:00 p.m. through 5:00 a.m. and access shall be unlawful so long as this Ordinance remains in effect in accordance with Section 6.

SECTION 3. PENALTIES. Each violation of this ordinance shall constitute a separate offense punishable by imposition of a fine, not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment not to exceed (30) days, or both. Violations may be enforced by the issuance of a civil citation by a sworn police officer. A citation issued under this section may be contested in accordance with the Code Enforcement Hearing Officer System pursuant to Chapter 25 of the City’s Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 4. REPEAL. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any clause or portion of this ordinance is held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this ordinance shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage by a majority vote of the members of the City Council, and shall remain in effect until 12:00 a.m., April 30, 2022, unless such date is otherwise extended by resolution of the City Council.

THIS ORDINANCE shall be effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED in regular session this 24th day of February, 2022.


CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH

By: 
Mark Sheldon, Mayor

ATTEST:

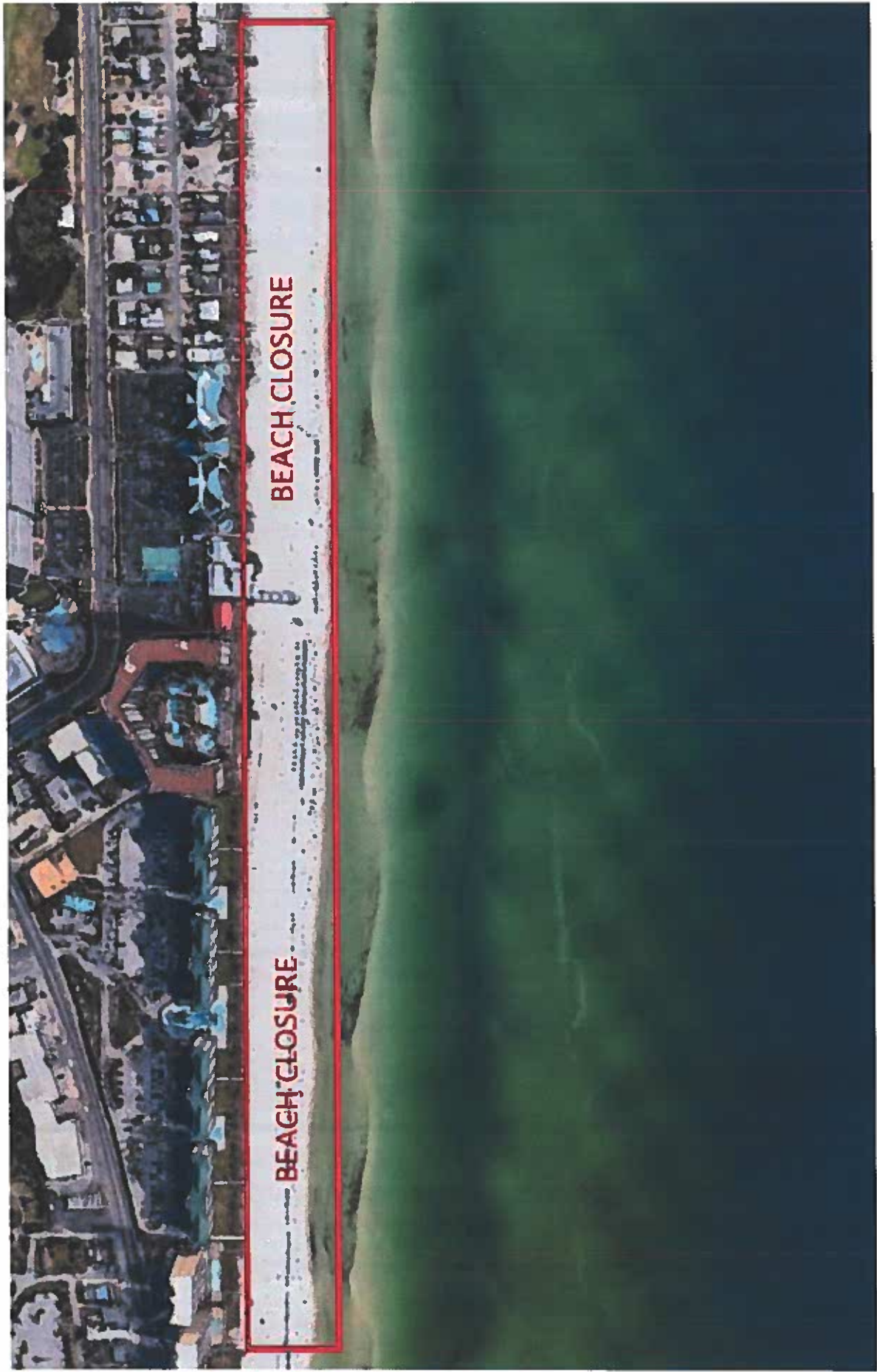

Lynne Fasone, City Clerk

EXAMINED AND APPROVED by me this 24th day of February, 2022.

By: 
Mark Sheldon, Mayor

Published in the Panama City News Herald on the 14th day of February, 2022.

Posted on **pcbfl.gov** on the 11th day of February, 2022.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following entitled ordinance shall be presented to the City Council of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, for a public hearing and final adoption at its regular meeting to be conducted at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 24, 2022, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at City Hall located at 1707 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach, Florida, to wit,

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This meeting will be held at City Hall. The live meeting will be live-streamed on www.pcbfl.gov. All persons wishing to be heard on the adoption of the Ordinance are invited to appear.

Any person requiring a special accommodation to participate in this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the Panama City Beach City Clerk, at lynne.fasone@pcbfl.gov or by phone at (850) 233-5100 at least five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, and you possess TDD equipment, you may contact the City Clerk using the Florida Dual Party Relay system which can be reached at (800) 955-8770 (Voice) or (800) 955-8771 (TDD).

All interested persons desiring to be heard on the adoption of the aforesaid ordinance are invited to be present at the meeting.

CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH,
FL

By: /s/ Lynne Fasone
City Clerk

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