



Florida House of Representatives

Sally A. Heyman

Representative, District 105

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April 16, 2002

Pinellas County Commission Members:

As an area resident, former municipal councilwoman, and a Florida State Representative for Northeast Miami-Dade County, I am familiar with and have been involved with Haulover Beach Park for over 40 years, including the clothing - optional portion of the beach.

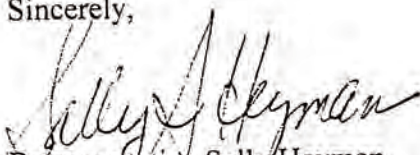
I have witnessed the growth of the clothing-optional beach from the beginning, 10 years ago, and have been involved in meetings with county personnel from various departments and members of the South Florida Free Beaches Naturist Association. I have also visited the beach several times, have had discussions with those responsible for the operation of the beach, and have observed the benefits of the volunteer Beach Ambassador Program.

From this hands on experience, I became aware that the visitors to the naturist beach are well behaved, helped keep the facility clean, and had no negative impact on the other areas of the park or the surrounding communities.

As Vice Chair of the state Tourism Committee, it is my responsibility to be aware of what facilities and market segments are good for Florida's tourism. Haulover Park's naturist family beach has been good for tourism because of its positive effect on the hospitality and tourist industry in attracting visitors from around the world.

I have supported Miami-Dade County' Master Plan for the redevelopment of the park, which includes the extension of the clothing optional beach. I hope this information gives you guidance in your upcoming decision.

Sincerely,


Representative Sally Heyman

Committees: Colleges and Universities • Council for Healthy Communities • Council for Ready Infrastructure
Crime Prevention, Corrections & Safety • Tourism (Vice Chair)



City Commission TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Norman S. Edelcup
Mayor

Lewis J. Thaler
Vice Mayor

Roslyn Brezin
Commissioner

Gerry Goodman
Commissioner

George "Bud" Scholl
Commissioner

Rick Conner
Acting City Manager

Hans Ottinot
City Attorney

Jane A. Hines
City Clerk

RE: HAULOVER BEACH PARK'S DESIGNATED NATURIST FAMILY BEACH

As Mayor of the City of Sunny Isles Beach, I am writing this letter of support for the clothing-optional naturist beach at Haulover Beach Park. The naturist beach is less than 100 feet from our city.

We have seen this beach grow from a few hundred visitors a day to 8,000 to 10,000 visitors on a weekend day. With over one million visitors a year within a few feet of our beautiful city, naturally we are going to be diligent observers of the behavior of these beach visitors.

The City of Sunny Isles Beach is comprised of luxury condominiums, rental apartments, oceanside hotels, as well as townhouses and single family homes. We are extremely conscious of our image as a tourist destination. The City is home to numerous high-end hotels, which include the Trump International Hotel and the ultra luxurious Acqualina Hotel.

Some of the visitors to Haulover's naturist family beach are citizens of my city and our hotels are enjoying high occupancy rates as tourists come here to enjoy this beach. Some of these visitors have bought condos here and have made Sunny Isles Beach their home. These visitors have contributed to our resort and sales tax base.

The visitors to this beach have been well behaved, they keep the beach clean and they stay within the designated area. The naturist family clothing-optional beach has had no adverse secondary effects on our city or on our citizens who enjoy Haulover Park. Myself as mayor, our police department or our citizens simply would not tolerate otherwise. The citizens of Sunny Isles Beach walk and jog within a few feet of the length of the clothing optional beach and we have received virtually no complaints.

The City of Sunny Isles Beach and its police have developed a good working relationship with the South Florida Free Beaches/Florida Naturist Association. We have witnessed their Beach Ambassadors working closely with the lifeguard service, the county police and the park management. The naturist beach visitors have been good stewards of the beach and have been good neighbors.

I trust that this letter of support will encourage you to support the naturist beach.

Sincerely,

Norman S. Edelcup
Mayor



March 23, 2009

Re: Miami-Dade County Haulover Park Clothing Optional & Top Free Beach

To Whom It May Concern:

I am taking the opportunity to write this letter to convey the favorable benefits our community has experienced as a result of the establishment of the Haulover Park Clothing Optional Beach.

In 1991, the naturist group known as South Florida Free Beaches first established a clothing optional beach at the north end of Haulover Beach Park. A few years later, our Association was approached by a group of naturists, requesting our organization's support to make our members aware of the popularity of this beach and our support was requested to cause the County to officially designate the beach area.

At that time our Board of Directors expressed concerns regarding public accessibility, public visibility, public acceptance, safety, crowd control, conduct, and other issues. In response to our members concerns, the naturist representatives, particularly Shirley & Richard Mason, responded to these issues and provided a scope of planning and cooperation that was favorably received. Thus, our Association committed its support and assisted in the presentations made to Miami-Dade County, seeking approval of beach designation. One-quarter of the two-mile Haulover Beach area was designated with official signage as a "clothing optional beach."

Our community, Sunny Isles Beach, is a vacation destination, immediately contiguous to Haulover Park. Our resorts and hotels serve guests from the United States, Europe, Canada and Latin America. Our European guests expect allowance to enjoy the beach top-free and it is granted.

In keeping with the commitments made, the Haulover Clothing Optional Beach has been rendered with added dune plantings that assure privacy from the roadway, and informational signage, that delineates the clothing optional beach area from the "textile" beach area.



As a business and tourist-related industry association, we keep in close communication with the local police and park department authorities for obvious reasons. The clothing optional beach area has proven to be safe, is extremely clean, and as a result of self-regulation and self-policing by its attendees, through all these years there has been no reports of negative conduct nor any reported serious crime.

Relative to benefits, weekly our association office responds to numerous visitors' inquiries on the clothing-optional beach and requests for lodging arrangements, in order that guests may enjoy this resource. Well over one million people visit the clothing optional beach and the assigned parking area generates over \$1 million in annual revenue to the County. Additionally, our local restaurants and retailers also financially benefit from the infusion of these guests.

It is worth noting that the regional core of the naturist beach users: participate in assuring that the beach resources are maintained at the highest quality level; work with the county to initiate safety programs; organize fund raising efforts for needy causes; and effect social functions, which greatly add to the enjoyment of a beach visit.

In essence, the decision made almost a decade ago by our Board of Directors to support the establishment of a clothing optional beach has brought our community many positive returns.

Sunny Isles Beach Resort Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ibis Romero".

Ibis Romero
Executive Director

**DAVID SAMSON
251-174 STREET #1704
SUNNY ISLES BEACH, FLORIDA 33160**

ATTENTION: MEMBERS OF THE PINELLAS COUNTY COMMISSION

RE: HAULOVER BEACH PARK'S DESIGNATED NATURIST FAMILY BEACH

For the past 10 years, I have been an observer of the clothing-optional naturist beach at Haulover Beach Park, first as the Chairman of the Concerned Citizens of Northeast Dade County (a coalition of condominium and home owners associations) and for the past 5 years as the Mayor of the City of Sunny Isles Beach. Haulover Beach Park, a county regional park, is contiguous with the southern boundary of the City of Sunny Isles Beach and the naturist beach is less than 100 feet from our city.

We have seen this beach grow from a few hundred visitors a day to its present several thousand visitors on a weekend day. With approximately one million visitors a year within a few feet of our beautiful city, naturally we are going to be diligent observers of the behavior of these beach visitors.

The City of Sunny Isles Beach is comprised of luxury condominiums, rental apartments, oceanside hotels, as well as townhouses and single family homes. We are currently experiencing a building boom of luxury condominiums and condo hotels. Donald Trump has recently branded a condo hotel here.

Many of the visitors to Haulover's naturist family beach are citizens of my city and our hotels are enjoying high occupancy rates as tourists come here to enjoy this beach. Some of these visitors have bought condos here and have made Sunny Isles Beach their home, while the tourists have contributed to our resort and sales tax base.

The visitors to this beach have been well behaved, they keep the beach clean and they stay within the designated area. The naturist family clothing-optional beach has had no adverse secondary effects on our city or on our citizens who enjoy Haulover Park. Myself as mayor, our police department or our citizens simply would not tolerate otherwise.

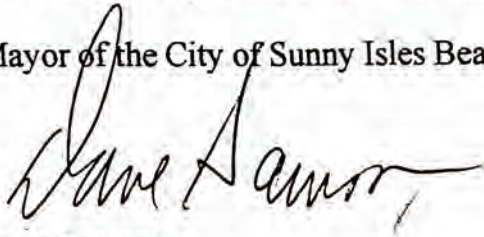
The citizens of Sunny Isles Beach walk and jog within a few feet of the length of the clothing optional beach and we have received virtually no complaints.

Prior to this section of Haulover Beach Park becoming a naturist beach, it was not a safe area. The presence of the naturist families significantly cleaned up and improved the area.

The City of Sunny Isles Beach, its police and myself have developed a good working relationship with the South Florida Free Beaches/Florida Naturist Association. We have witnessed their Beach Ambassadors working closely with the lifeguard service, the county police and the park management. The naturist beach visitors have been good stewards of the beach.

Because of this, on February 26, 2002, as Mayor of the City of Sunny Isles Beach I went before the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County to show my support for the Master Plan for the development and renovation of Haulover Beach Park, which included the expansion of the naturist beach

Mayor of the City of Sunny Isles Beach

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Samson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent loop at the beginning.

Dave Samson

Memorandum



Date: June 4, 2009

To: Alex Muñoz
Assistant County Manager

From: Jack Kardys, Director
Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department

Subject: Response of the Office of the Mayor – Monroe County Commissioner Carruthers

I am responding to an inquiry received from County Commissioner Heather Carruthers regarding establishing a naturalist beach in Monroe County. The Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department has provided the following information regarding the clothing optional beach at Haulover Park.

The clothing optional beach at Haulover was established approximately 18 years ago. The South Florida Free Beaches organization was instrumental in moving this issue forward. A brief description of the beach follows:

The clothing optional portion of the beach is approximately one-quarter mile long and is located on the northern end of Haulover Park (see attached map). The total length of the ocean beach at Haulover Park is 1.25 miles. The clothing optional section is denoted by a drift fence across the beach at both ends but there is unimpeded access. There are also signs informing beach goers that they are entering the clothing optional area. The upland side of the beach is protected by a planted sand dune that runs almost the entire length of the beach. The dune prevents a beach view from any of the activity areas (picnic area, restrooms, shelters, etc.) west of the beach. There are a number of crossovers through the dune that allow access to the beach. There are several of these in the clothing optional area. Signs as mentioned above are also posted at those particular crossovers. Except for the extreme southern end of the park, all parking at Haulover is west of A1A. There are four main parking areas at Haulover that have tunnel access under A1A to the beach. The northern most parking area (approximately 400 vehicles) is directly opposite the clothing optional beach and this is the preferred parking area for those who wish to use that part of the beach. There are only a few residential structures (condominiums) north of the park that have any view of the clothing optional beach.

In response to Commissioner Carruthers questions:

Economic impact – To our knowledge there are no official area-wide economic impact studies regarding the contributions of the Haulover clothing optional beach. However the B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation Institute has distributed (see attached) their version of the benefit of the Haulover naturist beach. The County makes no claim as to the validity of the assumptions or methodology used to gather this information.

As regards Haulover Park alone it is possible to get a fairly accurate estimate of the economic impact for that facility. Parking revenue is the primary economic indicator. In FY 08-09 the expected annual parking revenue for Haulover Park is approximately \$1,264,000. Given the proclivity of those who use the clothing optional beach to park in the north parking area, it is estimated that \$800,000 in parking revenue is directly attributable to the users of the clothing optional beach. The park does not gather information on the number of users or frequency of use; where they come from, or; the distinction between locals and visitors. The existence of Haulover Park is noted in several Naturist publications having world-wide distribution and helps draw naturist visitors to the park. There are other smaller impacts such as revenue from concessions and services, but these are relatively minor.