



BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Dedicated to the Preservation and Enhancement of "Our Village by the Sea"

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

2024 TRUSTEE PRIORITIES

The Beach Property Owners' Association Board of Trustees maintains an ongoing program to concentrate on the interests of the residents on the barrier island of Delray Beach. Simply stated, the BPOA is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of life on the barrier island; protecting real estate values; safeguarding our most precious asset, the beach itself; and, giving a strong and respected voice to our members concerning issues that may affect our community as a whole.

Your BPOA and its Board of Trustees are fully engaged and focused on delivering beneficial results to its members. Examples of on-going BPOA priorities include:

- Identify issues critical to barrier island members and advocate for corrective action with the City Commission and appropriate department heads
- Engage with city leaders, elected officials, and city departments to monitor and influence regulatory and development decisions
- Monitor city board agendas to identify issues that concern or affect the interests of our membership
- Give a "voice" to members - so that concerns of wide applicability to our mission can be addressed to facilitate favorable outcomes
- Preserve the scenic beauty, air and water quality, beach characteristics and overall environmental quality of the barrier island
- Maintain regular member communications via newsletters, member meetings, email blasts, social media posts, and Commission Candidate Forums during election years

The BPOA Trustees are very interested in hearing your concerns, questions or thoughts that would enhance the beach community. Please contact the Trustees to voice your opinions:

Telephone: 561) 276-2632 or Email: admin@bpoa-drb.com

Thank you for your support and BPOA membership.

Save The Date

BPOA CANDIDATE FORUM

Delray Beach

City Commission Candidates

Date: February 21

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Location: Opal Grand Resort

See You There



OFFICERS

Hal Stern, President
Kelli Freeman, Vice-President
Linda Purdo, Treasurer
Kathy Fazio, Secretary

TRUSTEES

Anne Bright
Rita Ellis
Mike Owen
Bill Petry
Scott Porten
Bob Victorin, *Immediate Past President*
Ned Wehler

FINANCE ASSISTANT

Kim Thomas

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Delray Beach Blue Flag Designation

In May of this year the City of Delray Beach announced that it was the proud recipient of one of the first two Blue Flag designations awarded to beaches in the continental United States. The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognized awards for beaches, marines, and sustainable boating tourism. It is awarded annually by an international jury of experts from the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association based on complying and maintaining over 30 criteria including water quality, environmental information, education, safety, services, and facilities.

Westward Beach in California was the other Blue Flag USA program recipient in the continental United States. The international award program has existed for 36 years and is headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Congratulations to our excellent Public Works Department staff managed by Director Missie Barletto and Ass't. Director Cynthia Fuentes that worked hard for several months to implement and maintain standards of environmental, educational, safety and accessibility criteria to achieve award status. You will note the Blue Flag flying on the main flag pole next to the Atlantic pavilion at the intersection of Atlantic Blvd. and A1A. It will be in place until April 30, 2024.

IN MEMORIAM

Ellen Kelly Dickson

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Ellen Dickson, loyal and long-time member of the BPOA. Ellen was a dedicated Board Trustee and served for several years as Board Secretary; she was community-minded and contributed greatly to serving our membership. Her passion for Delray Beach and Barrier Island issues made her a valued member of our organization. She had particular interest in city governance, public safety, quality of life, beach & dune preservation, and combatting the adverse effects of climate change.



Ellen leaves a life-long legacy of service and will be greatly missed by those who knew her and had the pleasure of working with her.

The BPOA extends our sincere condolences to Ellen's husband, Chip, and her entire family.

Stay Connected to the BPOA on our Facebook Group



The BPOA encourages our members to stay connected and to give us your suggestions and feedback to help us work to achieve our mission! Please visit our website at bpoa-drb.com. On our website you can learn the history of the BPOA, view a list of

our accomplishments, review the City's Beach Area Master Plan, see our Board priorities, pay your due and more!



Our Facebook page has been created as another source for BPOA members to stay informed. We also have a new Facebook Group for BPOA Members only! In this closed group we post time sensitive updates of things going on in our area. Please share your thoughts, concerns and suggestions for Board review.

Look for the BPOA Logo to join the Facebook Page or scan this QR Code to join the member's only group!



FDOT A1A IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

You are likely aware that FDOT has planned an A1A roadway project from E. Linton Blvd. to E. Atlantic Ave. The project construction will start in the fall 2024 with the anticipated completion in the winter 2025. The project purpose is to extend the service life of the roadway and improve safety along the corridor. The A1A project will include maintenance and resurfacing only, no added lanes nor sidewalks.



Standing Water on A1A
South of Casuarina

The primary work is the repaving of the existing roadway from East Linton Boulevard to Casuarina Road and upgrading lighting at signalized intersections and

midblock crossings to accommodate pedestrians.

Two resident presentations have been held dealing with the project details. Resident complaints were expressed that there was no drainage improvements included in the project where major flooding occurs. After research, FDOT stated that the current roadside swales had been modified which resulted in diminished or no storage capacity. This causes water to be redirected to the roadway and increased safety problems

occur where the lanes are closed. See photos of examples of problem flooding, auto in oncoming lane and cyclists in auto lane.

Now the good news, the FDOT plan has been revised. In order to increase the storage capacity, certain roadside swales are proposed to be restored providing

the proper flow of water. Impacts to existing roadside features within the right of way, which is state property, such as landscaping will be minimized, however, this cannot be avoided completely. The following locations are primary to be restored to solve the flooding are 1213 and 1225 S. Ocean Blvd. and between 705 and 611 S. Ocean Blvd. You may use this link to the FDOT project site where you can get the latest information and even watch the most recent public meeting:

<http://tinyurl.com/4usrne7n>

Additionally, work south of Linton Boulevard will also commence in 2024. This includes the roadway widening and three times lengthening (stacking distance) of the left turn lane on A1A as you turn left onto Linton. Widening comes primarily from the west side right of way. This is all intended to reduce the backing up of traffic on A1A in the west.

BPOA Relations with Delray Beach Fire Rescue and Police Department

Your BPOA leadership is proud to maintain a very strong and reciprocal relationship with both our Delray Beach Fire Rescue leadership and the command staff of the Delray Beach Police Department. Throughout the year we consult with each division on various concerns from our residents and items that we feel need additional attention. Some of the issues we addressed this past year are as follows:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

License plate readers on the barrier island - In March a member alerted the BPOA to the fact some of the license plate readers on the barrier island were not functioning. We immediately reached out to our

PD contacts and found that many of the cameras were not functioning properly, or at all, due to age, outdated technology and reduced functionality.

We sent a letter to the City Manager and Police Chief requesting these be replaced immediately, as they are crucial to limiting and addressing criminal activity in the area and have been a security and safety tool during times of emergency management during hurricane season.

BPOA board members continued to follow up with the City and the PD on this issue and were pleased to learn that funding was approved by the

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(Fire and Police continued)

Commission in September for all new license plate cameras on the barrier island and installation has been completed. This is a significant first step in a multi-step plan to increase the Police Department technology tools within the City.

Coffee with the Chief

President Bob Victorin and Board Treasurer Rita Ellis represented the BPOA at the October Coffee with the Chief event that was hosted for the residents and businesses on the east side. This was a great way to further our communications with the PD and to meet more members of the command staff and officers assigned to the east sector.



Bob Victorin and Rita Ellis with Police Chief Mager

Homeless Issues at A1A

Our police have reported that you might see more homeless on the barrier island and how to report if you witness any problems. Chief Mager noted that the uptick in homelessness nuisances is likely due to clusters of the population being regularly dispersed only to have them cluster in new locations. These clusters have inadvertently made their way east to the Pavilion. Chief Mager said, "We are not picking on homeless people but targeting those people who are disobeying the law."

The police have a program to monitor and provide service for examples of when a homeless breaks any laws specifically. If you observe any lawlessness activities, please call the police for assistance at 561.243.7800.

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

New Fire Station 112 – In December of 2022, Fire Chief Tomey made a presentation to the BPOA Board regarding early stage plans to upgrade fire stations throughout the City. One "suggestion" made to address the loss of the Highland Beach fire station contract was to build a fire station at Anchor Park. The Board was not in favor of this possibility and expressed our concerns with that idea.

After feedback from some of our members who also were opposed to this suggestion, in March of 2023, the BPOA sent a letter to Chief Tomey again expressing our opposition to a new fire station at Anchor Park. After many communications with City Staff and Elected Officials, opposition expressed at Town Hall Meetings, follow up, etc., the potential of a fire station at Anchor Park was abandoned.

Fire Rescue Strategic Planning Initiative

On August 21st, two of your BPOA Board Members, Scott Porten (Vice President) and Kelli Freeman, participated in the Delray Beach Fire Rescue Department's Strategic Planning Session for community input. During this session, community members were asked to rank the various department services in order of importance versus other department services. "It was certainly no easy task, as all Fire Rescue services are important to our City, yet this portion of the process will provide insights that the department will build upon" said Freeman.

The community input session results will be added to information gathered from Fire Rescue personnel over several days of similar sessions to create the department's new strategic plan that will direct their work over the next five years. The BPOA was honored to be involved in this critical process.

The Strategic Planning session is only one piece necessary to achieve international accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and the Centers for Public Safety Excellence. The Department's re-accreditation goal is March 2025!

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Finally, all fire departments are subjected to a rating from the Insurance Service Office or ISO. This rating is appropriately called an ISO score. A fire department's ISO rating is a determination by the Insurance Services Office by how well a department is able to serve the community. A score between 1 and 10 is assigned, with the lower number indicating the better score, which equates to lower home insurance rates for our community.

Chief Tomey shared that we are **the only ISO Class 1 rated and accredited agency in Palm Beach County!** This is true testament to the training, professionalism and dedication of the men and women of our Delray Beach Fire Rescue Department.

We greatly appreciate the service of our Police and Fire personnel and thank them for their service. We also value the open lines of communication we share with each division to help keep you, our members, updated and informed.

December 6th Membership Meeting

Thank you to all our members who attended the December membership meeting, kicking off another wonderful season on the Barrier Island. We appreciate all who attended and thank you for your continued support of the BPOA and our mission. If you missed the meeting, you missed a great presentation!

We would especially like to thank our guest speaker Delray Beach Fire Rescue Chief Keith Tomey and his staff for the very informative presentation. We will upload the Chief's presentation to our website (www.bpoa-drb.com) and share portions of the presentation on our Facebook Group. We encourage you to review this information to learn all about these great public servants and the work they do protecting us.

We believe it's fair to say that everyone who attended left with the impression that we have an excellent fire rescue department of which we can all be very proud. The Chief's presentation demonstrated that BI residents and businesses have adequate fire rescue services and that trucks, equipment and personnel are available timely as needed.

The Chief's presentation also provided information about volunteer opportunities and training. We will distribute this information over the next few months. Volunteers support the career staff and only help to make us safer.



Asst. Chief Travis Franco, Asst. Chief Gregory Giaccone, Chief Keith Tomey, BPOA President Hal Stern

Attendees were asked to complete a short questionnaire aimed at identifying our members' concerns. Your answers will help us make sure that we are working on issues that are important to you. If you didn't turn in a card, please visit our website or Facebook page to provide us your feedback anytime. We want to hear from you!

New Officers Are Elected

The BPOA is proud to announce the Board of Trustee Officers for 2024 who were elected unanimously at our December Board meeting.

Hal Stern, President

Kelli Freeman, Vice President

Linda Purdo, Treasurer

Kathy Fazio, Secretary

Bob Victorin, Immediate Past President

The newly elected officers have all served on the Board of Trustees for several years. We wish to thank our outgoing Officers - Rita Ellis, Scott Porten, Bill Petry and especially Bob Victorin who has been President for 14 years. These neighbors have spent years working with our elected officials and city staff preserving and enhancing the quality of life for BI residents and businesses. All of the past officers continue to serve on the Board so their knowledge and experience will be available for our new officers.



FIRE RESCUE BY THE NUMBERS

We Protect a Population of 70,000

We Protect 18 Billion Dollars of Assessed Property Value

Stations 6 (One in Highland Beach) (May 1, 2024)

PERSONNEL:

- 160 in Operations
- 24 in Ocean Rescue
- 18 in Administration
- 9 in Fire & Life Safety

99% of Our Personnel are Dual-Certified Firefighters and Paramedics

DELRAY BEACH RESCUE SERVICES

