

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

Because beach erosion is a serious menace to the economy and general welfare of the People of this state and has advanced to emergency proportions, it is hereby declared to be a necessary governmental responsibility to properly manage and protect Florida beaches fronting on the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Straits of Florida from erosion and that the Legislature make provision for beach restoration and nourishment projects. (Florida Statute 161.088).

Prior to deposit of any moneys into the General Revenue Fund, \$30 million shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund in fiscal year 2000-2001 and each fiscal year thereafter, to be used for the preservation and repair of the state's beaches as provided in State Statute. 161.091-161.212 (Florida Statutes 201.15(11))

The Legislature finds and declares that the beaches in this state and the coastal barrier dunes adjacent to such beaches, by their nature, are subject to frequent and severe fluctuations and represent one of the most valuable natural resources of Florida and that it is in the public interest to preserve and protect them. . . (Florida Statutes 161.053)

BENEFITS OF BEACHES: *Beach related tourism has a \$41.6 billion annual impact on our state's economy. Beaches contribute to expanding federal, state and local tax bases; increase sales, income and employment opportunities from resident and visitor spending; and enhance property values. Cantanese Center at Florida Atlantic University (www.catanese.fau.edu)*

At a regular monthly meeting of the Volusia County Beach Advisory Board on January 10, 2006, Volusia County Councilman for District 3 Jack Hayman said County Council has to make a cost analysis study of value of our beaches and identify sources of funds before it will authorize a full-scale beach restoration plan. There is no time-line for this and no meeting, as yet, scheduled.

County Council Chairman Frank Bruno, in his State of the County address this week, according to the *Daytona News Journal*, did not mention beach renourishment in his list of priorities for 2006. Although since 1999, County Council has been offered over seven million in state dollars since to study local beach erosion which was greatly exacerbated by the 2004 hurricane season, and each year the money goes back to the state, unused. "There are plenty of others who want the money," says Phil Flood of the State Department of Environmental Protection.

County Council continues to put this issue on the back burner while our beach continues to erode and now we must resort to more expensive, less effective, short-term means to maintain access to our beaches and assure our oceanfront properties are not in jeopardy. It is our government's civic responsibility according to State Statutes to preserve and maintain our beaches. It's about time Volusia County Council took this matter seriously.

Respectfully Submitted,
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