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**CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MAY 15, 2020, 6:00 P.M.**

(The following may contain unintelligible or misunderstood words due to the recording quality.)

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Mayor Felder?

MAYOR FELDER: Here.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Chairperson Julia Botel?

CHAIRPERSON BOTEL: Here.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Chair pro tem Douglas Lawson?

CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON: Here.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Tradrick McCoy?

COUNCILPERSON MCCOY: (No audible response).

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Shirley Lanier?

COUNCILPERSON LANIER: (No audible response).

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson KaShamba Miller-Anderson?

COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Present.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: City Manager, Jonathan Evans?

CITY MANAGER EVANS: Present.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: City Clerk Claudene Anthony is present. City's Attorney, Dawn Wynn?

CITY ATTORNEY WYNN: Here.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY: You make the plea.

CHAIRPERSON BOTEL: Thank you. Could we have a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Councilperson, Lawson.

CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

30 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of
31 America.

32 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** And to the republic for which it stands --

33 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** and to the republic for which it stands --

34 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** One nation --

35 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** One nation under God --

36 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

37 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** -- indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Thank you. Uh,
38 do we have any additions, deletions, substitutions from either the Manager or Miss
39 Anthony?

40 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Madam, Chair, let the record reflect that Councilperson
41 Lanier is now present.

42 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Uh, do we have any additions, substitutions or
43 deletions from the Mayor, Council, or City Manager?

44 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** No, Madam Chair, there's no additions, deletions, or
45 substitutions from staff.

46 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Do we have any disclosures by any members of
47 Council or the Mayor? I think -- I think we probably all have had many conversations
48 about this topic with innumerable people, but I don't think we have to disclose all of
49 those. Um, we all know that we've gotten calls from people for days on end.

50 Uh, so could I have a motion and second to adopt the agenda?

51 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Second.

52 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** To move.

53 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Uh, I think it was moved by Mr. Lawson and
54 seconded by Councilwoman Miller-Anderson. Uh, could we have a roll call on the, um,
55 agenda, Madam Clerk?

56 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Councilperson Miller-Anderson?

57 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Yes.

58 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Councilperson Lanier?

59 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Yes.

60 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Douglas Lawson?

61 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** (No audible response).

62 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I could see he said yes; he moved his mouth. Thank you.

63 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Chair Botel?

64 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Yes.

65 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Unanimous vote.

66 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Uh, thank you. We're -- we're gonna take those public
67 comments after I read this. Public comments should be restricted to issues, matters or
68 topics pertinent to the City of Riviera Beach. Please be reminded that the City Council
69 has adopted rules of decorum governing public contact during official meetings. Public
70 comments shall begin at 7:30 p.m. unless there is no further business of the city. Uh,
71 City Council which in that event shall begin sooner, in addition, if an item is being
72 considered at 7:30 p.m. then comments from the public shall begin immediately after
73 the item has been concluded.

74 Any member of the public wishing to comment publicly on any matter, including items
75 on the agenda, shall submit their -- comments by email to the City Clerk, Claudene
76 Anthony, at public comments at riviera beach dot org. That's public comments, plural, at
77 riviera beach dot org. The email shall contain the applicable agenda item number along
78 with the precise wording to be read into the record. Explicit language will not be read.
79 Emails without applicable agenda items, numbers will be read under the general public
80 comments section. Be advised, public comments will be accepted for each applicable
81 item in the general public comments section until closure is announced by the
82 Chairperson or the City Clerk.

83 All email addresses and submitted comments are and will be public record. Uh, the City
84 Clerk or designee will read public comments into the record at the appropriate time, for
85 no more than three minutes. If you have any questions, please contact City Clerk's
86 office at 561-845-4090 or email C Robinson at riviera beach dot org.

87 Uh, so Madam Clerk, could we have the beginning of the public comments, uh, unless --
88 uh, City Manager Evans has a remark to make before that.

89 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Um, Madam Chair, I can hold my remarks till after public
90 comments.

91 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Madam Clerk?

92 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Madam Chair, the acceptance of public comments on item
93 number one is now closed.

94 **CITY ATTORNEY WYNN:** Madam Clerk, can you read item number one, please?

95 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Opening of the municipal beach based upon the decision --
96 decision to be made by the Palm Beach Board of Commissioners at the Board of
97 County Commissioners Special Meeting, scheduled for May 15th, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

98 Our first public comment is from Joanie Cook [phonetic], who sent her comment on
99 yesterday morning. "Good morning. I wanted to make a short comment on the opening
100 of the beaches for Monday. We are very excited to be able to visit our beaches and
101 enjoy the gift we have on Singer Island. But I feel it should be noted that we need to
102 follow the and do whatever the county is doing. I'm afraid if we don't act the same way
103 as the county, the beaches on both Singer Island and the beaches in Palm Beach
104 Shores will be overrun with visitors. We all want to keep each other safe and not lose
105 our privilege. I'm worried about being overwhelmed with visitors and losing our
106 privileges that we have worked so -- too hard to earn. Please read my email in the
107 public comments section on Friday's meeting. Thank you, Joanie Cook."

108 Our next public comment comes from Anne Faranda [phonetic]. It's an -- uh, comment
109 that she made to the County Commissioners. "To members of the council, please do not
110 delay the reopening of our county beaches without restrictions. We have waited long
111 enough. It's time to just do it. The Coronavirus is not lurking in the wide-open spaces
112 and fresh ocean breezes on our beaches. It is in close -- in close quarters where people
113 can't get away from it.

114 "It may be a challenge at first but don't underestimate peoples' willingness to comply
115 with social distancing rules. Complicating things by having restrictions is only going to
116 bewilder them and frankly, is not -- just not logical. How can a mother not take drinks for
117 her children or a chair to sit on to watch them? How can beach goers not have towels or
118 blankets to rest or dry off? Some people, like myself, just want to sit and read or watch
119 the mesmerizing ocean waves.

120 "Most everyone is programmed to some degree to social distance by now, and they will
121 get it. What the people will not understand are needless restrictions. That will not make
122 any sense if everyone is social distancing and will ultimately be very difficult to enforce.
123 It will be so much easier for patrol officers to tell beach goers to spread out, if needed.
124 As a condo owner on Singer Island, I have not been able to set foot on my private
125 access beach, which I also find baffling. A part of the island is essentially deserted,
126 even during the peak of season with no crowds or congestion, ever. They have
127 patrolling it constantly with the threat of a court appearance if we do not comply. This
128 has caused much anxiety as it makes no sense, whatsoever.

129 "Sitting alone on the beach with no one in sight and then getting threatened with a fine
130 is just wrong. I can't fathom why the private access beaches in our backyard, that we
131 can only access with a code are lumped in with the municipal beaches. We pay a lot of
132 taxes for the privilege of living on the beach. If for some reason the municipal beaches
133 need to remain closed, we certainly don't mind the police patrolling the private access

134 beaches. But just to observe social distance, not to arrest us for no good reason.

135 "Again, I implore the council, please do not delay this any longer. We already had to
136 wait an excruciating long extra 10 days. Waiting is not going to make the virus go away.
137 I'm afraid it is going to be with us for a long time and we have to learn to live with it. And
138 waiting for Miami to open is defeating the purpose of making our own rules in Palm
139 Beach County. Besides, it looks as though they won't be far behind."

140 Madam Chair, that time has ended so the rest of those comments can be read is
141 someone makes a public records request for that particular email.

142 Our next public comment comes from Nicholas Lawler [phonetic]. "Thank you for giving
143 me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Riviera Beach opening. I would hope that
144 the Riviera Beach City Council would act in accordance with Palm Beach County
145 Commissioners if they vote to open beaches in Palm Beach County, effective on May
146 18th as effective. That is to say that the Riviera Beach City Council should vote to open
147 all beaches on Singer Island.

148 "It is important to note that there are several private beaches on the island and social
149 distancing will be easy to enforce on these beaches. Nicholas Lawler."

150 The next public comment comes from Ginger Igsnot [phonetic]. "No matter what, the
151 private beaches need -- no matter what, the private beaches need to be opened
152 immediately. Keep the public beaches closed. Fine people if they do not social distance
153 and in all caps, OPEN THE PRIVATE BEACHES, NOW. Thank you, Singer Island
154 Taxpayer."

155 Our next public comment comes from Brian Pobb [phonetic]. "In regards to this council
156 voting to agree with Palm Beach County's decision to open the beaches or remained
157 closed, I feel you should agree. The logistics of Singer Island with Riviera Beach is
158 nestled between and among Palm Beach shores beaches and Palm Beach County
159 beaches, and even State of Florida beaches, it would be ridiculous to not all be in one --
160 in accordance.

161 "The point of those going to be -- going to the beach is to walk and jog on them.
162 Someone parking and entering at Ocean Reef Park has only a few hundred yards to
163 Riviera Beaches to the south, and the same for Palm Beach Shores, directly next to
164 Riviera Beach to the north. Thank you all for your time."

165 Our next public comment is from Joe Silpada [phonetic]. "Doctor Botel, I would like to
166 comment for the public record regarding the opening of our beaches in Riviera Beach. It
167 should be made abundantly clear that we have multiple beaches on Singer Island in
168 several categories, as follows: one, the -- public beach in Palm Beach Shores for PBS
169 Shores residents, which also contains the towns' recreation center and parking, specific
170 to Palm Beach Shores resident. Limited parking for residents of Palm Beach Shores
171 with no lifeguards.

172 "Two, Riviera Beach municipal beach at Ocean Walk, adjacent to the shops and
173 restaurants with limited public parking. City of Riviera Beach lifeguards.

174 "Three, Ocean Reef Park at 3600 North Ocean, a county park with large parking area
175 and lifeguards, as well as public park with "picnic tables, et cetera.

176 "Four, private beach access adjacent to numerous privately owned condominiums on
177 Singer Island. No guards, no public access, no parking other than owners and
178 predominantly private garages, which are typically gated with private security guards.

179 "As it relates to the beach openings in Riviera Beach and or the Palm Beach County
180 Ocean Reef Park, they must not be confused or lumped together with private beaches,
181 associated with privately owned properties, condominiums. These beaches are without
182 lifeguards. These beaches can only be accessed by way of a Singer Island
183 condominium, and all of these buildings employ a private security firm. There is no
184 parking available other than for owners or their visitors, which is very limited.
185 Essentially, no public access and no public parking.

186 "There is limited daily beach activity by owners and no groups that would exceed social
187 distancing guidelines from the federal state or county government. It would be extremely
188 unfair and incorrect to consider any of these private beaches public access beaches
189 and the decision related to the opening of Palm Beach County public beaches.
190 Respectfully, Joe Silpada."

191 Our next public comment comes from Michael Nivodka [phonetic]. "By way of Silvia
192 [phonetic], Oceanside Beach Service has provided chairs and umbrellas in Palm Beach
193 County for over 38 years, currently serving the city beaches of Riviera Beach, Palm
194 Beach Shores, Delray Beach, Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, and Lake Worth. There is
195 no safer or more effective way to maintain and monitor social distancing than to allow
196 Oceanside to provide seating for residents when Palm Beach County's beaches reopen.

197 "Some important facts to bring to your attention. Sun lights, UV rays, heat and humidity
198 destroys the virus and we are now in the summer season. Currently, AC contractors are
199 installing UV lights into the vents of restaurants to destroy the virus -- virus. The sun
200 does that for free and UV light passes through cloud. The spring break crowd is gone. It
201 is a proven fact that iodine breathes in from the ocean and the negative ions in the salty
202 air strengthen the immune system, thus increasing serotonin levels which decreases
203 anxiety and promotes excellent health.

204 "Vitamin D is critical for a strong immune system. Our steps are placed over ten feet
205 apart and we maintain the distancing from opening till closing. A chair is occupied by
206 one person during the course of the day and we sanitize and disinfect our chairs twice
207 each day, with an industrial strength viricidal cleaner. Once in the morning when we are
208 setting up and again at the end of the day when we are closing.

209 "Staff will sanitize their hands frequently and wear face masks. We take public safety

210 and our response to public safety's health very seriously. We initiated these policies
211 before the public beaches were closed. There is no question that residents will want to
212 relax and sit on the beaches when they reopen, and we can accommodate them in a
213 responsible way. We here at Oceanside can provide the safest controls and monitor
214 social distance setting -- seating.

215 "Our staff is trained, always in uniform, and we follow the CDC guidelines. In addition, if
216 the individual cities choose, we are able to assist them in guiding all beach goers to
217 maintain proper social distancing throughout the day. We are therefore requesting to be
218 allowed -- and allow participant for the safe reopening of Riviera Beach. Sincerely,
219 Michael Nivodka, President."

220 The next public comments comes from Michael Nivodka himself. "Oceanside Beach
221 Service has provided chairs and umbrellas in Palm Beach County for over 38 years,
222 currently serving the city beach --"

223 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Madam -- Madam Clerk? Madam Clerk?

224 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Yes?

225 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I think it's our -- I think it's our policy to allow each presenter
226 no more than three minutes, and since we've heard from Mr. Nivodka, I think we'll pass
227 to the next one if you don't mind. Thank you.

228 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Okay. Our next public comment will come from Lynne
229 Westley [phonetic]. "I am concerned in -- in the safety of citizens who are conscious of
230 the effects of this pandemic as the rest of the state beaches have slowly opened up this
231 past week. Has anyone took into account how many issues from them opening were
232 made public? I feel you the council should at least wait until the end of the month --
233 month, to better gauge the landscape and having an alternative plan in case opening
234 the beach early becomes an issue.

235 "Hopefully, this is not asking too much of you council members to consider. Respectfully
236 yours, Miss Westley."

237 The next public comment is from Artie Dunn [phonetic]. "No reason for condo beaches
238 to be closed. We shouldn't be penalized for the potential bad behavior -- behavior of
239 other people in other places. Arthur Dunn, Singer Island."

240 The next public comment comes from Barry Schweppe [phonetic]. "May I suggest
241 handling -- handing out daily beach tags to people wishing to enter the beaches? No
242 charge, just a way to limit the number of people who get on and have something to
243 show the police checking for tags. A different color every day with the date. That way
244 we don't overcrowd, especially on Memorial Day weekend. They are probably plenty of
245 out of work people in our city willing to take the job of handing them out."

246 The next public comment comes from Renee. "I am totally against the beach reopening

247 at this time. What is the hurry? Are we willing to risk the lives of innocent people for
248 those that are ready to frolic and get intoxicated at the risk of infecting others? You can
249 sunbathe in your own backyard. Patience. The beaches aren't going anywhere, but
250 some of us may. Thank you for your time, Gizelle Lowe [phonetic] 580 West 34th Street,
251 Riviera Beach."

252 The next public comment is from Susan Bennett. "I agree the city and county should be
253 aligned regarding the decision to open the public beaches. That being said, I believe the
254 beach area belonging to the private property owners should be opened for the use of
255 the resident. All CDC guidelines should be followed. Individual condo communities
256 would be responsible for the enforcement of the guidelines or risk losing the exemption.
257 The use would only pertain to the beach area legally designated as belonging to the
258 private property. Please keep this consideration in mind when making any beach-
259 related decisions. Susan Bennett."

260 The next comment comes from Frank Solaris. "I think we should open the beaches for
261 condominiums and close parking at the public beaches."

262 The next public comment is from Tracy Larcher [phonetic]. "When the beach reopens, I
263 strongly recommend beach service concessions, umbrellas, and chairs, be included in
264 the opening and authorized to operate. Properly spacing the equipment and not
265 allowing it to be moved, beach service operators would actually help to facilitate social
266 distancing. Beach concession operators serve as another set of eyes on the beach and
267 can report dangerous behavior and or lack of social distancing accordingly.

268 "Restaurants have been allowed to reopen outdoor seating, provided the tables are
269 properly spaced. Beach service concessions are very similar in this regard, and it is
270 difficult to understand the safety or social distancing differences between these two
271 operations that make one acceptable and the other not acceptable. Please thoughtfully
272 consider including beach service concessions in the reopening plans. They will prove to
273 be a strong asset in maintaining social distancing and safety on the beach. Sincerely,
274 Tracy Larcher."

275 Our next public comment comes from John William Thompson. "I want to encourage the
276 city to follow the lead of the county and allow our beaches to reopen. Since county
277 beaches and Palm Beach Shores will be opened, a decision not to open Singer Island
278 beaches will only create an oversaturation of those beaches; the very thing we are
279 trying to avoid. Also, let me remind you that the vast amount of beach property on -- in
280 Singer Island is private property. We're smart enough to do what is right. John
281 Thompson."

282 Our next public comment comes from Jamie Dickson [phonetic]. "Please read this into
283 the record and read aloud to the council at tonight's meeting. Please reply to confirm
284 that you have received this email, thank you. Jamie Dickson. Many people may not
285 realize that when we say our beaches, meaning those belonging to Riviera Beach, we
286 are talking about only one public beach; the city beach adjacent to Ocean Walk Mall on

287 Singer Island. But there are three other public beaches on Singer Island that are not
288 under the control of Riviera Beach.

289 "The one in Palm Beach Shores, controlled by that town. The one at Ocean Reef Park,
290 controlled by the county. And another at John MacArthur Park, controlled by the state.
291 In addition, there are condo beaches but those are not public beaches because they are
292 privately owned. So, we have four different public beaches controlled by four different
293 entities.

294 "Can you imagine the public's confusion if when public beaches open, these all have
295 different rules. That is precisely why Riviera Beach should vote tonight to follow the
296 decision that the county made earlier today. If Riviera Beach keeps its beach closed or
297 is more restrictive than the county, the public will flock to the other three public beaches
298 on Singer Island that are less restrictive.

299 "Unfortunately, those other beaches are smaller and have less parking, which will result
300 in our roads being jammed and beach goers parking illegally and unsafely wherever
301 they can find a spot. Because Riviera Beach is responsible for traffic control and trash
302 removal from those roads, this will cause unprecedented problems as our police and
303 roads become overwhelmed. We have seen this occur in the past, in all caps. The
304 situation will only be exacerbated by a fifth entity; county control, Phil Foster Park, which
305 is right across the bridge from Singer Island.

306 "Crowds attempting to turn up there rather than coming to the island will tie up traffic on
307 the bridge so that our citizens cannot get over to THEIR beach. Certainly, we know that.
308 Because we cannot legally keep people from other cities and counties from using our
309 beaches as soon as ANY public beaches in Palm Beach County open, people will be
310 flocking HERE from other counties whose beaches are still closed. Other beaches in the
311 county charge for parking and we do not. Plus, our beaches are known to be the best.
312 For all these reasons I urge the council to do the smart thing, the logical thing. The
313 SAFE thing. Which is to vote tonight to follow the county's lead and get in sync with the
314 other public beaches on our island."

315 Our next public comment comes from -- excuse me, Madam Chair, the paper is stuck.
316 Laura Mochi [phonetic]. "Our building on the beach has done ALL that our government
317 has asked and demanded be done during this time. We have ZERO residents having or
318 having had the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, there is ZERO chance of spreading the
319 illness amongst ourselves and absolutely no good reason that private beaches not be
320 allowed to use THEIR OWN PRIVATE beaches.

321 "As an end to that, ALLOW us to use our private beaches. Furthermore, there is ZERO
322 scientific evidence pointing that the use of PUBLIC beaches has caused deadly
323 consequences or any outbreaks, for that matter. But on the contrary, plenty of scientific
324 reports extolling the health benefits of the beach due to the salt and microbes that boost
325 human immune systems. The simple answer to anyone fearful of public beaches
326 opening have the freedom of choice by NOT GOING TO THE BEACH.

327 "As an end to that, I implore you to ALLOW the public to use their beaches. Respectfully
328 thanking you, Laura."

329 Our next public comment comes from Marie Simone. "Please vote yes to reopen the
330 beaches without restrictions. We the residents need the beach back for exercising --"

331 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** (unintelligible)?

332 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** "-- getting hit -- rid of stress to get vitamin D. Please give us
333 access back to our backyard. Thank you, Marilda Simone [phonetic]."

334 The next public comment comes from Patty Barnes [phonetic]. "I am in favor of
335 reopening but with RESTRICTIONS. It's too early for this to be a free-for-all. Thank
336 you."

337 The next public comment comes from Lou Cohen [phonetic]. "I live on a private beach
338 that is never really crowded and I think we can control access to our private beaches. I
339 vote for them to be opened. I really think if all the counties, et cetera, open all at once
340 this would not be an issue. Thank you, Lorraine [phonetic] Cohen."

341 The next public comment comes from Bonnie Wahl [phonetic]. "I think it is absolutely
342 necessary that Riviera Beach follow the county's lead and not cause confusion with
343 conflicting rules with different public beaches. In addition, I think it is even more
344 necessary to recognize the difference between private beaches and public beaches.
345 Those Singer Island residents who own homes on the ocean, mostly in condos, were
346 very unhappy in the first place that their private beaches, which actually serve as their
347 backyards, were closed when the public beaches were closed.

348 "Some are talking about a lawsuit against the State based on the uncompensated taking
349 of private land, but that is not something I want to comment on. I do want to comment
350 however on the very serious issue that will arise if the city does indeed decide not to
351 open the public beaches, or after they do, find it necessary to close them again because
352 of unruly crowds not observing safety measures. And that issue is that the private
353 beaches must not be lumped in with the public ones if, in fact, they are not part of the
354 problem.

355 "Specifically, the condos are willing to police their own beaches in addition to submitting
356 to city policing. Unless they fail in that mission and are guilty of same behavior that
357 closes the public beaches, they should not be closed. If in fact one private beach or two,
358 or whatever number, should cause the same problems that the public beaches are
359 causing, then, of course, that one private beach or whatever number should be closed
360 down. But the chances of that happening are very slim because the social pressure to
361 comply will be enormous.

362 "When condo managers and board of directors and owners see any other condo
363 resident threatening by their non-compliance, the ability of their co-owners to enjoy the

364 beach, retribution will be swift. The board of -- boards of director may levy fines for rule
365 breakers or deny them the use of common areas such as pools and tennis courts. But
366 certainly, the other owners in the condo will come down hard if they see anyone
367 breaking the rules on their beach and risking closure of that beach,

368 "I doubt very much that many could resist that kind of social pressure to comply. In
369 closing, please remember that Singer Island pays over 40% of all Riviera Beach taxes
370 and does not ask for much in return. We do not have a city library or a community
371 center or city parks or the gyms that the mainland has, but we certainly expect the right
372 to socially distance ourselves on our own beaches that may argue -- that many argue
373 were wrongfully closed in the first place. So, please remember as you deliberate tonight
374 not to lump private condo beaches --"

375 Madam Chair, that concludes that public comment by Miss Wahl as time has expired.

376 Our next public comment comes from Andrew Mitchell. "Good afternoon --"

377 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Madam Clerk, go ahead. Miss Miller-Anderson.

378 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** I just wanted to -- I need to step away for a
379 second, so is Miss Lanier here?

380 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Miss Lanier, could you put your video back on, please?
381 Thank you. Thank you. Please continue, Madam Clerk.

382 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Andrew Mitchell. "Good afternoon, respected council
383 persons. I understand the county voting today to reopen beaches and -- in a five-two
384 favor. I have a tax A letter that is alignment with respect -- prospective of other general
385 managers on Singer Island. Our beautiful beaches need to reopen. We can maintain
386 social distancing as well or better than people walking up and down A1A or over the
387 Blue Heron Bridge. Opening our beaches will also bring back tourism, which will allow
388 us to bring people back to work. I humbly ask that you strongly consider opening Riviera
389 Beaches. Private access with weekend control and ID residents for Palm Beach County
390 access only at the public beaches. With respect, Andy Mitchell, General Manager,
391 Marriott Oceania Palm."

392 And Madam Chair, he did submit a letter. "Dear Honorable Commissioners, as a leader
393 of one of the 165-plus hotels and resorts in Palm Beach County, I have been closely
394 monitoring the discussions, meetings, and changes made by the Board of County
395 Commissioners. There are three critical issues I am aligned with neighboring general
396 manager and property leaders on that I would like to bring to your attention.

397 "We feel they would greatly support the economic recovery of Palm Beach County.
398 These include the essential traveler restriction to Palm Beach County, Executive Order
399 2020002A, the reopening of beaches and the offering of beach concessions. First, Palm
400 Beach County Executive Order 2020002A currently restricts public lodging

401 establishments to serve only those customers that meet the definition of a critical
402 lodger; otherwise known as essential travelers. This Executive Order will be expiring on
403 May 15th. I respectfully assert to you that the essential traveler requirement will not
404 make our community safer; it will only serve to impede Palm Beach's economic
405 recovery. I ask that you do not extend this executive order. This would allow for future
406 bookings for our hotels and resorts and allow us to bring our employees back to work,
407 restart our operations and begin serving out guests in the safe and prudent way these
408 times demand.

409 "Second, at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting on May 8th, it was agreed to
410 have additional emergency meetings -- an additional emergency meeting on May 15th to
411 review the proposal of reopening our beaches starting May 18th. I ask for your support
412 to vote in favor of reopening our private beaches for use by our vacation club owners
413 and guests only, with the added restriction of access given at public beaches to Palm
414 Beach County residents only.

415 "Finally, the issue of beach concessions was of concern at the May 8th meeting. I would
416 emphasize that if beach concessions specifically provided beach chairs and umbrellas
417 are not allowed to operate."

418 Madam Chair, time has expired for this public comment.

419 Our next public comment comes from Chris Zetwick [phonetic]. "Dear City Clerk, I would
420 like to have the attachment read during comments from the public at tonight's City
421 Council Meeting regarding opening the beaches. Thank you, Chris Zetwick."

422 Chris Zetwick wrote, "Please reopen the beaches. With Phil Foster, Ocean Reef Park
423 and Palm Beach Shores opening on Monday, you will create a nightmare situation for
424 law enforcement if you keep closed. Listen to law enforcement and your city manager
425 who think it's a good idea to be in line with Palm Beach County. Chris Zetwick."

426 Our next public comment comes from George Isaac. "I am the General Manager of the
427 Hilton -- Hilton Singer Island. I am the General Manager of Hilton, Singer Island. In the
428 past, we were able to -- to employ over 125 team members who were active members
429 in our community. Due to the virus, I had to layoff 105 team members due to the
430 reduction in travel. The closing of our restaurant alone with bars and the closure of our
431 beach.

432 "When the hotel began to layoff staff at the end of March, we all believed this would be
433 short-lived as we were informing our team members, 'You will be back to work very
434 soon.' That has now turned into many weeks. We are receiving calls daily asking when
435 they can return to work, since collecting unemployment is difficult.

436 "I am requesting for our beach to be open and operate with our concessionaire in place
437 in order to have full control of our area. Since we manage our beach, we control the
438 number of people allowed on our beach. We control the distance between chairs, the

439 sanitary condition of the equipment. The people who service the equipment, and all
440 activities. My plea and request is to open our beaches, allow guests to return to all
441 hotels on Singer Island, so we can bring our staff back to work. Thank you for your
442 consideration and this -- for this important matter. George Isaac, General Manager,
443 Hilton, Singer Island Ocean Front Resort."

444 Our next public comment comes from Bonnie Dorfman [phonetic]. "I believe it is the best
445 interest of Riviera Beach residents that the City Council votes to follow the county's (in
446 all caps) decision regarding reopening of the city beach at the mall.

447 "I understand the city (in all caps) cannot restrict beach access to non-county (in all
448 caps) residents. However, we could impose other restrictions. I would suggest limiting
449 the number of cars that enter the beach to create more distancing in the parking lot, and
450 to make it easier to physically distance at the beach.

451 "We should assign patrol persons to break up large groups or remove patrons who do
452 not comply with this order. If the county (in all caps) decides NOT to reopen the
453 beaches AND there is a way for the -- for the RB council to allow private condominiums
454 to reopen access points to their beachfronts, I would urge you to do so.

455 "Many of the condos are at low populations currently and must -- and most do not see
456 the kind of numbers on their beaches as the public beaches do. Physical distancing will
457 not -- will likely NOT be a problem. Also note that the condos CAN continue to restrict
458 visitors and therefore beachgoers to the properties themselves.

459 "Again, mitigating any possibility of overcrowding on the beach -- it seems unfair that
460 those can afford to purchase and maintain watercraft have been permitted (in all caps)
461 for the past several days to enjoy the water, hold a boat parade, et cetera, whereas
462 those who can afford beach -- beach front living AND additionally PAY HIGH TAXES to
463 the City of Riviera Beach for that privilege CANNOT. This is not equitable. Please do
464 what you can to remedy this. Sincerely, Bonnie Dorfman."

465 The next public comment comes from Beth Krewer [phonetic]. "Island residents only, for
466 30 to 60 days."

467 Our next public comment comes from Marina Tuchman [phonetic] -- Schudgeman
468 [phonetic]. "Thank you, City Council, for all your efforts. I am writing again to urge you to
469 open the private beaches. I'm confused about how the city has control over the private
470 beaches. I heard Mr. Larson at the last meeting mention that many residents believe the
471 private beaches do not exist, however our building property line is fenced into the sand
472 on the beach. Just because people feel the beach belongs to everyone doesn't mean
473 that's the truth. Many of the buildings on Singer Island have property lines that extend
474 onto the dry land -- dry sand. I hope you understand that continuing to close the private
475 beaches is wrong and unlawful. Thank you for your time."

476 And Madam Chair, that concludes the public comments.

477 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you, Madam Clerk. Awesome job. Uh, -- uh, Mr.
478 Evans?

479 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Thank you.

480 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. City Manager Evans?

481 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, Madam Chair and members of the board, I had a two
482 and a half hour presentation prepared for you but, uh, in light of the, uh, the topic -- uh,
483 the county did vote today, uh, by vote of five to -- to reopen the beaches that are under
484 the auspice and control of the county, as well as, um, incorporating the, um, the private
485 beaches that were also, uh, provided for in the Executive Order.

486 Uh, one of the things that I want to make abundantly clear is that the city's actions to
487 effectuate the closure of the beaches was not predicated on sunny day and we just
488 decide to close the beach for no apparent reason. We have a global pandemic; we have
489 a national state of emergency. We have a state of emergency and we have a local, uh,
490 state of emergency. So, the conditions and the information that was provided to us by
491 epidemiologists, scientists, the Florida Department of Health, our own governor with
492 Execute Order 2070 gave us, by statute, the authority to effectively close the beaches to
493 intend to protect the health safety and welfare of the public.

494 The city's position on the particular matter, as it relates to staff, is to adhere to the
495 guidance and recommendation that's been provided by the CDC and to comply with the
496 emergency order that the county has, uh, set forward. One of the things that you will
497 see in our model, uh, that Miss Aladia Franks will share with you shortly is that is very
498 comprehensive and in the event that it does get out of hand, we will shut the beach
499 down. Um, and when individuals delineate and differentiate private beaches and public
500 beaches, the reality is that it's our law enforcement officers and staff that have to
501 enforce when people are causing troubles or issues on public, private property. We
502 have those types of disputes everyday on a regular basis.

503 So, we know that our condos and hotels will do the appropriate things to assist in
504 policing, but law enforcement resources will have to be deployed to assist in some
505 compliance related activities. The individuals that will visit our beach, uh, do not
506 understand the difference between public and private and, uh, property lines and so,
507 we're looking at this holistically and we've put out a plan that looks at this holistically.

508 One of the things that we want to make sure that the public is aware, is that we are still
509 dealing with this particular pandemic and that if folks have some concerns with respect
510 to opening the beaches, I would encourage them not to go the beaches during those
511 peak hours; whether it's going early in the morning, later on in the afternoon. And for the
512 first time in Riviera Beach's history we will actually have a live webcam that you will be
513 able to go on the website and see the capacity on the beach.

514 Um, we're deploying addition cameras so you'll be able to see the numbers, um, and we

515 have an actual -- I don't know if it's a thermometer -- but it is an actual barometer that
516 will show our capacity numbers. So, people before they come to the beach will actually
517 be able to jump on their smart phone or their mobile device and get real time updates
518 with regards to what is happening on our municipal beach.

519 This is something that we will incorporate into our website in perpetuity, so it's not, um,
520 this pandemic has showed us -- shown us some little bit of things that we can do
521 differently. Uh, but we think there's a lot of value to being able to have that information,
522 um, accessible to us.

523 One of the things that we need to make sure is that we communicate effectively to the
524 public as it relates to, um, what the expectations are. We have done a public information
525 piece that will articulate exactly how the traffic is to be controlled, how we are going to
526 provide this concierge service, and Miss Franks has done an exceptional job to bring,
527 uh, together a model that I would argue is better than any model I've seen from the
528 municipal managers I've talked to, and exceeds the expectations that I had when the
529 model was developed.

530 So, I'm gonna turn the, uh, balance of the presentation over to Miss Franks to talk about
531 if the City Council agreed for the city to coincide with the, um, county's direction, um,
532 what we are gonna do in the City of Riviera Beach. Miss Franks?

533 **MS. FRANKS:** Thank you, Mr. Evans; good evening everyone.

534 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Good evening.

535 **MS. FRANKS:** -- City Council and our residents. Aladia Franks, Assistant Director of
536 Parks and Recreation. Upon the reopening of the municipal beach on May 18th, on
537 Monday, it is staff's goal to ensure the safety for all, but we also want them to have
538 enjoyable time as well.

539 To ensure the social distancing is -- is adhered to, we have recommended that the
540 beach capacity is 1,800, and there will also be two beach access points; under the blue
541 -- shade sails -- on the northside walk there will -- leading up to the beach, there will be
542 an entry access. On the southside of the walk there will be an Egrets and that was -- will
543 be how the patrons exit the beach.

544 City personnel will serve as our beach monitors, our ocean mall attendants, and our
545 parking attendants. And we have also spoken with the beach cabana vendor,
546 Oceanside, who has also implemented several CDC guidelines to ensure that social
547 distance is adhered to, as well. Staff will be provided masks and gloves and hand
548 sanitizers.

549 Handheld electric sprayers will be used to sanitize our restrooms on a rotational basis
550 and we will also, uh, we have reached out, um, interim Chief Curd reached out to the
551 town of Palm Beach to also update and communicate our city's reopening plans.

552 Staff will be strategically placed in zones A through I along the beach, along the parking
553 lots, along the Ocean Mall, along the pavilion parks, as well. Staff will also be utilizing
554 fencing to close off the additional beach accesses so that we can have better control
555 and we will also be identified with colorful T-shirts that will also reinforce and reiterate
556 our CDC guidelines. On the back of it will be "Mask on, Social Distancing, Wash Your
557 Hands," so you'll be -- it'll -- they'll be easily identified.

558 There will also be ample signage throughout the beach, the Ocean Mall, the parking
559 lots, and the signage will be posted in English, Spanish, and Creole. We will also have a
560 jumbo message board to reiterate the rules of social distancing as well.

561 For personnel, they will also have radios to communicate any updates as far as the
562 parking lots being closed or the beach being closed. The IT Department, as Mr. Evans
563 stated, has completed a beach monitoring dashboard that will operate in real time and
564 this will serve as an update to our residents that are planning to come to the beach.
565 Staff is also planning a very smooth, but safe reopening of our beautiful beach.

566 And that concludes my update. Thank you.

567 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Madam Chair, I also want to allow for Chief Curd to provide
568 some perspective as it relates to Ocean Rescue and what we'll be doing as it relates to
569 Ocean Rescue and then, uh, Chief Osgood to provide some, uh, perspective as it
570 relates to law enforcement assets that will be deployed.

571 Additionally, one of the things that we will be doing as well is we will have a drone that
572 will be utilized to monitor capacity numbers, um, and there will be periodic checks, uh,
573 that will be happening via drone as well as Ocean Patrol, et cetera, but Chief Osgood
574 can provide some perspective on that. But if I can go to Chief Curd to provide some
575 information as it relates to the coordination with Palm Beach Shores as well as, um,
576 what Ocean Rescue will be doing. Chief? Thank you.

577 **INTERIM FIRE CHIEF CURD:** Thank you, Mr. Evans. John Curd, interim Fire Chief,
578 serving as the Operations Section Chief. Good evening, council, community. Uh, we just
579 want to provide you with a quick update on what a plan, um, looks like from an Ocean
580 Rescue perspective.

581 Uh, during the reopening, should that be the wish of Council on Monday, Riviera Beach
582 Ocean Rescue is gonna be upstaffed to full capacity. We're gonna bring in all Ocean
583 Rescue personnel. We are going to, uh, work with Miss Franks and her team to have a
584 dedicated, uh, ALS rescue unit at the beach and working in conjunction with the Police
585 Department in a unified, command fashion. As we are treating this as a -- an event, so,
586 uh, we're gonna utilize the Incident Command System, uh, to ensure that all parties are
587 talking with each other. We're gonna ensure that Ocean rescue personnel, uh, have the
588 appropriate PPEs and guidance, uh, for dealing with individuals that are on the beach
589 and affecting a rescue, uh, should the need arise.

590 We've also coordinated our efforts with Palm Beach Shores to ensure that our
591 municipalities are working in conjunction with each other so that we can open the
592 beaches as safely as possible.

593 We've also reached out to, uh, Palm Beach County Ocean Rescue to ensure that we
594 are communicating with them, uh, on the same day at Ocean Reef Park and both Phil
595 Foster Park. So, this is going to be a true, unified effort to ensure that our municipality
596 as a whole, uh, is -- is being taken care of and our residents are, uh, adhering to all of
597 the requirements from the CDC, which I have no doubt, uh, that they will comply
598 willingly and we anticipate a smooth event.

599 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Thank you, Chief Curd. Uh, Chief Osgood?

600 **POLICE CHIEF OSGOOD:** All right. Good evening, council members and general
601 public; how are you tonight? Um, I'm gonna echo much of what you just heard here.
602 Law enforcement will have extra patrol patrolling the area of the beach, up and down
603 Ocean Drive. We will have the drone up, operating, looking at over-capacity. We're
604 gonna ensure to -- making sure our public is adhering to social distancing.

605 We know when people get together, they gonna be fun and excited to get out in the sun
606 and enjoy the ocean, the view and the beaches, so, every now and then you'll see a
607 police officer right up on the beach, biking, just remind them -- it's not be the hardcore
608 enforcement, like people seem to think that law enforcement generally get involved in.
609 But we will remind you of the -- the social distancing, the CDC guidelines, uh, because
610 we are in different times and we have to be mindful of that. We're far out of danger with
611 COVID-19.

612 Um, we also have installed extra cameras on the beach to make sure that we are not
613 over capacity -- capacity. We have to take a look at our parking; we're gonna encourage
614 people who can walk up, to walk up. Um, we have just a small amount of parking on the
615 beach area so we wanna make sure that we do not over capacitate the parking up and
616 down the beaches.

617 Um, we have coordinated -- we worked -- talked to, um, our neighboring partners, that's
618 gonna most be opening up beaches as well, um, -- um, PBSO, Ocean, um, Palm Beach
619 Shores, and we gonna be in contact with them. We also have monitors that's gonna be
620 up and down the beach, then we are walking around. Our monitors are in contact with
621 police radio, with all of our police officers; if they see something, they will say something
622 to us, and we can quickly respond.

623 We would be working directly with our Ocean Rescue, Fire Rescue and if we see
624 anything that brings of a concern, we will address it and that completes my report.

625 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Okay.

626 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Madam Chair, that concludes, uh, staff's report and we're

627 here to answer any questions, uh, the Board may have concerning this item.

628 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Does Council have any questions? Miss -- Miss
629 Lanier?

630 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Yeah, I wanted to ask a question in regards to capacity.
631 How does that look? Um, do you just, you know, send a drone out or look and see, you
632 know? You know, when I think about this -- I was thinking about that beach in Naples
633 and when I saw that just huge crowd of people there, then that kind of gave me some
634 pause. So, how are you going to control, you know, something of that nature?

635 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, that's an excellent question, councilperson. Uh, what
636 we've done is we've calculated what the number -- capacity numbers would be if we
637 gave each family unit a six-feet of separation. And that would equate to about 2,500
638 people on the beach. So, we actually reduced that number to 1,800 people. We're
639 actually going to have a, um, almost like a host -- if a family comes up, before they even
640 put their items on the sand, they will be greeted by staff and then staff will actually walk
641 them onto the beach and make sure that they set their items in certain places. So, we're
642 going to be monitoring that, that's why we're restricting some of the other access points
643 and there's a central access point that folks will have to come into. And then, of course,
644 as they're coming in through those access points, we're gonna make sure that they --
645 they will have cones or some type of marks to ensure that family units don't, uh, you
646 know, all come at the same time and then you have a line of 200 or 300 people, uh,
647 stacked up. We're gonna make sure there's six feet between individuals in a line; but
648 they'll have to wait to be able to, um, be put onto the beach and the sign that will be
649 running will actually have the capacity numbers. And we've talked about, if we hit
650 capacity, we tell people it's closed and you're just gonna have to wait until, you know, a
651 family leaves the beach to safely be able to put another family in that particular spot. But
652 -- but there will be staff personnel, I believe Miss Franks has allotted about eight
653 individuals to serve in that team, um, to accommodate.

654 Um, and then we know we're gonna go ahead and staff up for, uh, Labor Day Weekend,
655 so Labor Day Weekend, you can anticipate anywhere between 20 to 40 staff members
656 that will be on the beach. Because we're deploying resources that are not being utilized
657 in other capacities to assist, to ensure that we do not become -- and I will not let this
658 become a situation similar to that of Naples. That was the main thing in all of our
659 discussions and every point that we, uh, we discussed as part of the reopening, is that
660 this did not happen in our community and that's why the plan is set forth as it is.

661 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Anything else, uh, Chairman Lanier?

662 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Well, I just wanted to -- to make a statement that being a
663 public health official for 30 years, and knowing about viruses and how they, uh, move
664 around. How they go from person to person. This is a very hard decision for me. But
665 because that we have a staff in place, we have people in place that are going to be able
666 to make sure that we are doing social distancing, we are making sure that people stay

667 safe. And I really want to say to the public that if people have either underlying
668 conditions, people have any other issues, do not go to the beach. You know?

669 And as -- uh, Mr. Evans said earlier, you know, you can look and see how the crowd
670 looks before you go. But I would caution, uh, anyone, uh, with, uh, conditions, uh,
671 underlying conditions to be able to participate in that big of a crowd.

672 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you, Miss Lanier. Appreciate it. Um, Mr. Lawson.

673 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** (No audible response).

674 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Uh, Mr. Lawson, we're not hearing you. Do you have a
675 headphone in, or a speaker plugged in that might be prohibiting us from hearing you?

676 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** (No audible response).

677 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Um, I'm not hearing you. Could we get someone to give
678 some technical support to Mr. Lawson? While we're waiting, Miss Miller-Anderson, do
679 you have any questions?

680 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Yes. Um, thank you for the presentation. I
681 appreciate the detail that went into it. Um, I just had a couple questions. So, with the
682 count that you have of 1,800 people, how does that work with those who just want to
683 come out and walk on the beach, just for exercise?

684 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, the folks that if they come in through that main entrance
685 point, um, they're -- they're gonna be considered as -- as part of the count.

686 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Okay. And then when they're walking
687 though, I mean, I would hope -- no one's gonna be monitoring them walking up and
688 down near the water, for instance?

689 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** No. We -- we won't be -- we won't be walking along with
690 them. What we have done though, is if they come in through that main entry point,
691 there's a different exit point where we'll be able to count that one or two people, uh, left.
692 Because you can't enter an exit at the same point when you do come into the beach,
693 and that's the way for us to keep the count, um, up to date.

694 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Okay. And then, is there a significant
695 financial impact with having the, um, extra bodies out there or are those just people who
696 would typically be working anyway?

697 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** It -- most of it is -- there's some individuals that we are
698 utilizing that would be utilized in other capacities but since, for instance, we're not
699 reopening recreational amenities and library staff and so we're pulling teams from Parks
700 and Recreation that would be coordinating, you know, youth sports or those types of
701 things.

702 So, it's a -- it's a mixture of both, um, to be able to fill out the compliment and Miss
703 Franks has the latitude to build or retract a team based on needs on that particular day.
704 So, we know that we're gonna have to staff up on the weekends and maybe during the
705 weekdays, just not as many people.

706 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Okay. And then, um, what -- what is the
707 plan if we do not open our beaches and -- and we have, um, Phil Foster and Ocean
708 Reef open and Palm Beach Shores -- so, obviously people will be going there --

709 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Right.

710 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** -- what will we have in place to keep them
711 from coming to ours?

712 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, what we would do is, we would, uh, section off our
713 beach similar to what we did when it was closed, um, and we would restrict the access
714 points. And then we would have to increase patrol as it relates to, um, our beach patrol
715 to ensure that people are not encroaching on those areas.

716 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Okay. And then, um, so the enforcement of
717 it, if someone does not comply with the social distancing, for instance, what -- to what
718 level are we going to go with the enforcement?

719 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, I will allow for the, uh, the City Attorney to provide some
720 perspective on that because they did some research, um, in the event that we had
721 some situations where individuals would not comply. Um, Miss Wynn?

722 **CITY ATTORNEY WYNN:** Yes, and I don't know what, um, Chief Osgood's plan is but
723 we provided, um, to his office the statues that would be considered a violation, and most
724 places they're issuing warnings first. And a citation is the last resort.

725 But we provided the statutory, um, language and the actual statutory numbers for him to
726 cite so that when they -- if they do ever go to court on those violations, um, once they're
727 issued that they would be legally sufficient.

728 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Okay. But if they -- I mean, obviously they'd
729 get the notice, do they get to stay there and still be out of compliance or do they have to
730 leave if they don't comply?

731 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Chief Osgood?

732 **POLICE CHIEF OSGOOD:** They would get a notice first, um, Miss Councilwoman, and
733 then it would be given a chance to adhere to the notice and if they don't adhere to the
734 notice, we would ask that person to leave. Um, and the rest would be at last resort that
735 we would do in this case.

736 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Right. Okay. All right, um, Mr. Lawson

737 wanted to go if he's -- is he ready?

738 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Mr. Lawson, are you with us now?

739 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Can you hear me now?

740 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Yeah -- yes. Mr. Lawson, could you say something?

741 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** (No audible response).

742 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Not -- not yet.

743 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Hello?

744 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Uh, now. You're -- you're -- you're with us, I think.

745 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay.

746 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Go ahead.

747 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Madam Chair, do you hear me now?

748 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Yes, go ahead.

749 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay, excellent. Thank you. Okay. So, Mr. Evans, first
750 question. In the capacity, the eight --

751 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** You're -- you're -- yeah, you're -- you're breaking up.

752 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** He's breaking up.

753 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** You're breaking up a little bit, Mr. Lawson --

754 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** -- Rescue, or is that just gonna be guessed?

755 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Could you make sure you plug your earphones in all the way
756 and -- you're breaking up a little bit. Could you repeat your question, please? Now we're
757 not hearing you at all.

758 **MS. NOEL:** This is Marcia.

759 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Yes?

760 **MS. NOEL:** If Mr. Lawson is having issues with his audio from his computer he may
761 want to consider calling in for now. You can still see him visually --

762 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay. Mr. Evans, the 1,800 capacity, no?

763 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Okay, that -- we can hear him now.

764 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay.

765 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Go ahead, Mr. Lawson. Miss Lanier, go ahead, while we're
766 waiting.

767 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** I just wanted to, uh, reiterate the fact that -- or ask the
768 question, because if we assume, um, uh, parties of 10, we want to assume -- or we
769 want it -- to be family members and not just 10 people meeting up at the beach to be
770 able to, you know, hang out together. So, you know, if you want to -- we want to really
771 encourage families to be participating in this and not just, you know, me calling up my
772 friends saying, you know, 10 of us are gonna meet out to the beach today.

773 Because if you are looking at trying to contain this virus, you want to make sure that
774 people who are not usually in contact with each other are the ones who are in these
775 parties of five or 10. So, I would like to encourage the public to also consider that, that
776 when you're going out, you know, you're going with family members, you're going --
777 people who you've been around for the last, you know, 10, 20, 30 days, and not with
778 people you haven't seen in two months.

779 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Right. That's good advice. Thank you.

780 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, yeah, and -- and that is correct, um, uh, Madam
781 Councilwoman, we -- what we're doing is, there's no groups larger than 10, um, and
782 certainly the guidance and direction is we'd like the household units to stay together.
783 You know, if it's a situation where individuals live in a different household or what have
784 you and there's, you know, 10 people or what -- we're gonna make sure that we
785 separate, um, not the family units but any other folks that would be outside of -- 'cause
786 we really need to have the folks that are in each other's household in those pockets.

787 Now, obviously, there -- that goes onto the honor system but staff is going to do what
788 they can to ensure that people comply and when they come to the area where quote-
789 unquote the host is going to be, there will be a law enforcement officer there too, with
790 that staff person, so if people decide not to be complaint or try to create an issue,
791 there's gonna be law enforcement assets right there as soon as they get onto the
792 beach. Before they even get onto the beach.

793 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Okay --

794 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** And -- no, I also wanted to -- to add, too, um, if we are,
795 uh, going to pursue this route in opening up the beaches, we have to take precautions
796 and that is what we're trying to do here. But we also need to have a contingency plan if
797 there is a spike in cases. We need to be able to ensure that people can either self-
798 isolate, we can ramp up our testing; we really want to make sure that even though we
799 are going to open the beaches that if we do get a spike in cases, that we are ready for

800 that as well.

801 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Absolutely. And, um, to your point, that's why even though
802 we anticipate inclement weather, uh, later on -- we didn't close our testing site for
803 Saturday. Um, a lot of other agencies did that but we know testing is so important and
804 so we said, rain, you know, uh, or shine, we're gonna be out there. So, our testing is still
805 available for residents, uh, tomorrow. Because we -- we know that testing is -- is key.

806 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** And just one more -- and just one more thing. I want us
807 to be able to -- if people are coming out to the beaches to have some type of public
808 health dissemination to people, when they come out you can give them a flyer,
809 brochure, something giving them information about protecting themselves, about where
810 to get tested, if you need a mask, those kinda things.

811 So, that -- that's a big, uh, a pool of people to be able to hand out public health
812 announcements to.

813 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** That's a great idea. I would suggest we also hand out 2020
814 census information the Town of Riviera Beach Questionnaire information while we're at
815 it.

816 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Well, we -- we are going to provide, uh, we have the ability
817 to provide some surgical masks, uh, for folks, as well. And the only reason that we don't
818 want to, uh, get people with a lot of literature, 'cause invariably if they end up leaving up
819 --

820 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** (unintelligible), yeah, yes.

821 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** -- and then we have, you know, 20 -- 1,800 pieces of
822 literature that we've gotta clean up.

823 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** That's true, that's true.

824 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Windshields, windshields. Uh, okay, anyway -- anyway, I
825 just really wanted to say that, you know, we really need to do that but also, I really want to
826 say that I was really against this. And, you know, being a public health person, when I
827 tell you that, you know, this was a very hard decision for me. But because we do have
828 beaches opening up around us, because I believe in people having individual rights in
829 terms of private beaches; I want to be able to, uh, you know, have a balance that if
830 we're going to do this, we're going to be a model for other beaches to be able to
831 emulate.

832 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Uh, we just lost your audio, uh, Councilwoman Lanier. So, in
833 the meanwhile I will recognize Mayor Felder -- Mayor Felder --

834 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Can you hear me? Can you hear me?

835 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Oh, we couldn't hear you, but Mayor Felder is, uh,
836 recognized.

837 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Oh, okay. I'll come back.

838 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** We'll come -- okay -- we'll come back --

839 **MAYOR FELDER:** Just -- just a few questions for Mr. Evans and -- and the team. So,
840 this 1,800 count, is that including the folk on -- that stay in the condos or that are maybe
841 staying in the hotels? Are they --

842 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** No, sir, no, that -- that's our municipal beach. That's -- that's
843 the span of control we have, yes, sir. Just our beach.

844 **MAYOR FELDER:** So, so if they wanted to walk down to our beach, our -- does that
845 make that number change?

846 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** If they -- if they walk down to our beach, we're gonna have
847 monitors that know that you can't just walk onto the beach and set your chair up. You're
848 gonna have to queue up in the line that we've established.

849 So, individuals can walk, you know -- you know, if they're just walking or jogging along
850 the shoreline, that's fine. But if they're going to set up there's a check-in process that
851 they would have to do to access our beach.

852 As it relates to the private beaches, um, we are providing literature to them as it relates
853 to social distancing and -- but we're still gonna have assets out there if we see crowds
854 or what have you, we're still going to -- you know, tell individuals that they need to
855 adhere to social distancing guidelines and this is the rules of -- of the beach. And
856 holistically, um, the -- the -- the condo, um, associations as well as the hotels said that
857 they will be even more restrictive than us. Um, and they will assist in working with us to
858 ensure that there's compliance throughout the entire island.

859 **MAYOR FELDER:** Okay, and just to piggyback on that and I know Chief Curd did a --
860 great job, um, this would just explain why we should because if we have opening other
861 two county beaches up, that kinda alleviates the crowd going there, we can kinda
862 dictate our crowd.

863 Um, but just to Councilwoman Lanier's point, um, yeah, it's going to be a lot of people
864 and you -- it's gonna be more than 10 that -- that hookup because they know we're
865 gonna allow 10 of 'em to -- 10 of them at a time to hookup so they're gonna come in at
866 one at a time. But, um, I'm confident, um, in our staff and what they put together, um, to
867 be able to handle this. So, great -- great job, guys.

868 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you.

869 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** And -- and, uh, Mayor, I totally agree. I know that, you

870 know, the people who I know who love the beach, that they're already probably on the
871 phone now saying, "Listen, meet me out to the beach," so I know, you know, having, as
872 I said before, being a public health official and coming into this thinking that, no, no, no,
873 no, this cannot happen, but knowing that around us everything is going to be open.

874 Um, I think that this is a prime opportunity for us to put up temporary posters, to be able
875 to have hand sanitizers on deck. To be able to tell people about, uh, you know, social
876 distancing, about taking care of your health. About being, you know -- you know, if you
877 are sick to get tests. To, you know, give, you know, posters and signs that we are
878 having testing this Saturday.

879 You know, this is a very, very good pool to, you know, advertise how you stay safe.

880 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you.

881 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Yeah, absolutely.

882 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Mr. Lawson, should we try it again?

883 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Can you hear --

884 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Yes, go ahead, I can hear you now.

885 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Awesome, thank you. All right, thank you guys for
886 bearing with me. Um, Mr. Evans, um, thank you so much for the presentation. Uh,
887 everything was in line with what we're trying to do, to just make sure we keep our
888 residents safe.

889 Uh, a few questions. The 1,800 capacity, does that include our staff and rescue team?

890 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, that will not include our staff and rescue team in the
891 numbers, no, sir.

892 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay. And with this being the new norm, uh, this protocol
893 that we're putting in place; how long do you anticipate we having this protocol in place
894 on our beaches?

895 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** That is an excellent question and I cannot give you a date
896 but I can tell you that we will keep this in place until we collectively come back to the
897 board, when you're comfortable in us saying, you know, that there's information and
898 enough scientific information that we can make an informed decision. But this will be the
899 model until further notice.

900 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay. And I believe, um -- my computer's going in and
901 out, but I believe Councilwoman Miller-Anderson inquired about the financial
902 ramifications for the additional staffing and parameters we're putting in place. I didn't
903 hear the answer though. Will there be additional, uh, financial (unintelligible)?

904 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** We're -- we're pooling -- we're pooling resources from other
905 departments. Um, individuals that would normally be providing other services in our
906 recreation department or individuals that may be assisting at Barracuda Bay or at any of
907 our recreation centers. Those individuals have been sourced to be able to assist as well
908 as other staff back filling, so we have the monies budgeted in the fiscal year, um, 2020
909 budget and we're going to be able to give the board more real-time information as far as
910 the fiscal impact associated with this probably after the first week or so. And we can
911 keep you abreast of that if there is anything that we have some concerns with respect to
912 the spikes or as it relates to the budget. But the funds are already budgeted as it relates
913 to personnel cost for the remainder of the fiscal year and we don't anticipate it being an
914 overrun on fiscal resources because we do have the capacity with the vacancies and
915 then obviously, with us not getting some of the expenditures that we would normally
916 incur at this time of the year.

917 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Uh, Mr. Lawson, are you done?

918 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:**(No audible response).

919 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Looks like he's frozen.

920 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I think he -- I think he's frozen. Councilwoman Lanier go
921 ahead.

922 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** I -- I just want to say as the Chair of the Health and
923 Human Services Committee, um, I really would like to look at the budget in terms of
924 public, uh, you know, posters, announcements, because I'm telling you now, being a,
925 uh, person in public health and about research -- do you know what type of group that
926 we have out here that's gonna come to the beach to be able to say and to provide
927 people with information about public health? This is a captive audience, we'll be able to
928 -- and I -- I'm willing to be, you know, people who are coming out to the beaches, who
929 are getting this public health information will probably practice better, safer, uh, -- uh,
930 public health, uh, than anyone else. Because they are being, you know, provided with
931 this information in that type of setting.

932 So, I certainly, Mr. Evans want to look at that budget in terms of public -- yeah.

933 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Absolutely.

934 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Miss Miller-Anderson? You're recognized.

935 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Okay, so, I -- you know, I watched the
936 meeting from -- the county meeting, from last week and the one today and, you know, I
937 just want to be clear. Although the majority did vote to open it up it was not a unanimous
938 vote, and so therefore there were a couple of commissioners that had some sort of
939 concerns as to why they weren't enthusiastic about opening it just yet. Um, one of the
940 things, you know, I just -- I -- I appreciate the plan being in place; at least we have

941 something to handle the situation, or at least to attempt to handle the situation.

942 But you know, I just think about starting from the top down, in terms of the different
943 reopening phase criteria that was put into place; we have not achieved any of that yet.
944 You know -- it was stated at from the President, he put a plan in place, stated from the
945 Governor, put a plan in place. And it was to see a 14 day decrease in the cases, um, I --
946 I -- I haven't seen that and I don't think there is data to support that is going down.

947 Now, I know people are coming to the beach, which we're not taking temperatures,
948 we're not having them do a checklist sign off like they would typically do if they go, I
949 don't know, to the doctors office or somewhere else. They haven't do those types of
950 things. So, essentially letting -- having people come out, even though they're six feet
951 apart, but we have a number of people out there who could possibly be sick or
952 asymptomatic and sick and don't know it.

953 Um, that -- that's the only concern that I have. And then with Memorial Day coming up,
954 um, I have a concern about just the influx of people that will come from that. Now, I
955 understand there's a lot of people that, you know, need the beach, want the beach. I
956 also understand too, that I know a lot of people that have been sick with this disease
957 and a lot of people that have -- and I don't know a lot of people that have that, but I
958 certainly know of a couple and I've read about a number of people that have got it from
959 it.

960 And, you know, for me, I -- I just think this whole thing is moving a little too fast. I do
961 appreciate the plan. You know? Because whether it opens or it don't open, we have a
962 plan. And, um, it's best to have a plan to open than to open and not have a plan. So, I
963 appreciate that but I'm just not -- I'm not comfortable right now to say yes. Um, because
964 as I said before, we -- we don't -- there -- there has not been a decline in the numbers.
965 Not consistently, anyway. It may drop down every now and then but then it packs right
966 back up. I mean, it picks up drastically.

967 Um, so I, you know, this is something that I could certainly support maybe in June to
968 see whether or not we've had an opportunity for those numbers to go down. Um,
969 because right now, the data does not support this and -- and I won't say this -- the data
970 does not support moving into these different phases.

971 Now, I understand for, um, consistency purposes of having, you know, all of them open
972 because the county did vote to do so, um, I'm -- I -- but the only thing I know is that I
973 don't have any control over what the county does. I can only give my voice and vote to
974 what Riviera Beach does and so, for me, right now, I'm not comfortable with moving
975 forward. That's it for me.

976 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Uh, anyone else? Miss Lanier?

977 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Um, I totally agree with, uh, um, Councilwoman --
978 Councilwoman, uh, Miller-Anderson. Uh, being a public health official, I have done a -- I

979 have worked in the field of HIV AIDS for 30 years. That is a virus the same as this virus
980 is in terms of the COVID-19. I understand that how it spreads, I understand that we're
981 looking at numbers that are astronomical at this point. We are almost at 90,000 people
982 who have passed away from this virus in the 60 days.

983 So, it is no joke. But we do have to understand that we have an audience, we have -- if
984 we're going to do this, if we're going to follow suit, meaning that we are one beach of
985 four that is surrounding us that is going to be able to have the opportunity to provide
986 public health, to provide information to people. To be able to get people to, you know,
987 understand the dangers of this, and I think that this is a prime opportunity for us to be
988 able to provide that public health information.

989 Now, as I said before, I agree with you, but you know, it is very difficult to, you know,
990 say for instance, I'm dealing with HIV AIDS, you know, for the last 30 years, and it is
991 difficult to get people to change their behavior in the face of information. But when you
992 have captive audiences, when you have people who you can just, you know -- this an
993 opportunity to provide information. To provide public health information. To tell people
994 about hand sanitizing. To tell people about masks. We have an opportunity to be able to
995 provide public health to a captive audience and that is one the reasons why, you know,
996 because around us things are moving forward. And trust me, I would -- I would want to
997 wait until July the same way the City of Los Angeles is doing. They're waiting until July
998 1st to be able to reopen. And I would definitely like that. But because around us we don't
999 have any control over anything around us, and we are in this sea of things that are
1000 happening around us and if we're going to be able to at least, uh, you know, be in the
1001 game here, I think it's a perfect opportunity for us to provide public health information to
1002 the people who are coming to our beaches.

1003 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank -- thank you, Miss Lanier. I'll just make a comment
1004 myself. Um, I'm very concerned that if we don't open up, the people who will flock to Phil
1005 Foster and the Ocean Reef Park Beach will be very much at risk of becoming ill. And I
1006 think in order to protect them we need to open our beaches because we have the ability
1007 to spread people out that's really -- it'll be a lot easier and a lot safer if people come to
1008 the beaches on Singer Island that are not -- not just the county beaches, but our city
1009 beach, uh -- if they flock to that Ocean Reef Beach and there's nothing else open, they'll
1010 be overwhelmed and it will be really, truly a health crisis. So, that's why I'm -- I'm in
1011 favor.

1012 I also want to take this opportunity thank Aladia Franks, um, Chief Osgood, Chief Curd,
1013 and our City Manager for the excellent plan that they've put in place. Everything they
1014 have done is in favor of protecting people and keeping people safe from this virus, and I
1015 think that it's -- it's -- there's such a pressing demand -- not that -- not that we need to
1016 make decisions based on the -- on the demand that we have but it's -- it's -- people are
1017 so anxious to get -- to get out there and be healthy again. Particularly the people who
1018 have -- and I -- I have to say, on this point, I know I disagree with our City Manager, I
1019 know that I've -- I've -- you know, we -- we -- we've had conversations about this in the
1020 past.

1021 I really believe that if the -- if the city beach doesn't open, we need to at least allow the
1022 private beaches which have lots of controls on them, to open up. I know it creates, as
1023 you say, two classes of citizens and I'm sorry that, you know, it -- but if we don't open
1024 this -- these city beaches, if this vote is made tonight to not open the city beaches, then
1025 I think at least we have to consider as a council allowing the private beaches on Singer
1026 Island to open.

1027 So, I think someone else had their hand raised, Miss Miller-Anderson.

1028 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Madam -- Madam Chair, can you hear me?

1029 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Miller-Anderson and then Mr. Lawson. She was waiting and
1030 I'll get back -- right back to you.

1031 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

1032 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Sorry. Go ahead -- go ahead.

1033 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** I -- you know, I do want to just make sure I
1034 point out that I'm not, you know, I know there are people -- it's not a matter of being
1035 concerned about the people that are going out there, because obviously -- you know,
1036 some people may say, well, if you're worried about getting sick, don't go out there.

1037 Well, I don't think it's really about that. You know? I think the people who, like, I know I
1038 won't be going out there. I -- I can protect myself because I don't have to go out there.
1039 But that does not mean people may not come back on this side or back into the
1040 community and then spread it to people unknowingly.

1041 So, it's not even a matter of trying to protect self, it's a matter of, you know, it -- it could
1042 transmit to others and -- unknowingly. And that's the part that really scares me, and, you
1043 know, it's not an easy decision to make, you know?

1044 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** No, no.

1045 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Because you're gonna have some people
1046 who want it, some people don't want it. But what I don't want to see is for there to be the
1047 haves and have not where, um, because you have a private, um, area, that you're
1048 allowed to go and those who do not have the luxury of doing so are not able to do it.
1049 That I -- I do not agree with that at all.

1050 Um, so, I mean, if it's going to open, it opens. If it's not going to open, it will not -- I don't
1051 think should open for anyone. Um, and that's just, you know, having been born and
1052 raised here for all my life, I just feel there hasn't been a, um, a bad taste in people's
1053 mouths about the separation and so we don't want to create that type of issue.

1054 So, whatever we do needs to be for everyone, um, regardless of, you know, how people
1055 may feel they have more privileges, but we don't want to send the wrong message. Um,

1056 but that, you know, is just my concern for us moving quickly to reopen as the governor
1057 and the president are doing and not even adhering to the own -- their own guidelines
1058 that they put into place.

1059 Um, but I'm sure with the plan, should we open, the plan is -- is -- is pretty well put
1060 together, so I can appreciate that and I -- I -- I hope that it will definitely give us the
1061 results that we're looking for. Um, but just at this date, May 15th, I'm just not comfortable
1062 with supporting it today. Thank you.

1063 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Mr. Lawson, you wanted to make a statement?

1064 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Thank -- thank you, Madam Chair. Um, I'm highly, so
1065 sorry about my technical difficulties tonight because it has been trying.

1066 Um, Mr. Evans, do we have any idea when the Broward and Dade beaches will be
1067 open?

1068 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** From what I was able to glean from the meeting this
1069 morning, it looks like they'll be having a conversation on Tuesday, uh, to talk about their
1070 reopening's but most likely it will end up being, uh, the Tuesday after, um, Labor Day.
1071 But the other side of it is, you know, they're getting the same type of pressure, so you
1072 may see them have a discussion on Tuesday and look to open it on, you know, the
1073 weekend.

1074 So, it -- it all depends. But that's what we've been -- we've been told in the circle of
1075 managers I talk to.

1076 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay. And in mind with, uh, Miss, uh, Miller-Anderson,
1077 and the concerns of opening the beaches and the safety of our residents. Uh, Mr.
1078 Evans, your staff has done a phenomenal job with controlling the outbreaks, with
1079 controlling the numbers here in our community. And I just think we would be doing a
1080 disservice to our residents if we allowed before this influx of -- of visitors, tourists, to
1081 come into our community. Because as Miss Miller-Anderson stated, it's not the -- the
1082 residents or the individuals here in this community that we're concerned with. It's gonna
1083 be that onslaught on our beaches that are gonna attack over the next coming weeks,
1084 especially with the holiday weekend coming up.

1085 And my concerns that Broward, even they haven't opened, and if they haven't opened,
1086 these beaches are going to be the first stop for them. So, I'm adamantly against opening
1087 the beaches right now, even when the plan is solid. I would want to see what Broward
1088 Bay do over the next coming weeks. I would want us to roll this plan out maybe a little
1089 earlier, uh, beginning of June. I'm line with that as well. And I'm just concerned with that
1090 capacity. With having a staff of eight to 10 people to service 1,800 people going to the
1091 beach? That just seems like it's gonna be a nightmare. Um, logistics nightmare in
1092 regards to placement of the individuals trying to get on these beaches.

1093 Um, I did have a question, Mr. Evans. When you said if it got out hand, what exactly
1094 does that look like to you?

1095 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Well, if we have a situation where we, you know, staff sees
1096 that the -- the numbers are, you know, we've got the 1,800 capacity, we've got cars
1097 stacked up that are trying to get into the beach and we see those pockets where people
1098 are not adhering to some of the recommendations, that would be a situation that -- well
1099 before we got to that point, we would go ahead and make a call and limit access to the
1100 beach, um, by all the means that we can from the city side.

1101 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** And I just think by that time, Mr. Evans, it's -- it's gonna
1102 be too late because we don't know how this virus is gonna mutate, we don't know about
1103 the effects of this. The second wave hasn't even hit. And with, uh, numbers not actually
1104 subsiding and continuing to rise, I would want us just to caution just a slow release to
1105 open the beaches right now. Just because I'm concerned with keeping our residents
1106 safe. Priority number one. I know we wanna make sure that we help the economics of
1107 our community, we're wanting to get those beaches so that we can have the tourists
1108 coming in so that our hotels and that our -- our Ocean Mall can actually, uh, thrive with
1109 the actual visitors. But right now, I just think it's just a little too early, a little too
1110 aggressive. And our legislation, they put parameters in place that they're not following.
1111 So, I'm not sure why we push to be in phase one, but I understand that there's logistics
1112 and politics, quote unquote, that's going into it that want them to open up and that's
1113 pushing for businesses to move forward but right now, just for safety, I want to protect
1114 our residents, first and foremost.

1115 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I -- I have a question then for both for Miss Miller-Anderson
1116 and Mr. Lawson. My -- and not a question, a concern that I wanna express. I'm -- I'm
1117 very fearful for the hotels and the number of people that they've laid off. Um, could we
1118 consider allowing the hotel beaches to open? I mean, these people are dying. The
1119 hospitality industry is suffering greatly and -- and people who have been laid off are
1120 having trouble getting access to that money that -- that unemployment money. It's -- it's
1121 being -- it's devastating to people. We have over -- I think we figured out the other day,
1122 Mr. Evans, that we had about 10% of the community that relies on the hospitality
1123 industry. 10% of the -- of the households in this city that rely on the hospitality industry
1124 for their -- for their living. And if we don't allow the hotels to open, it would be
1125 tremendous suffering in terms of the people who were laid off and not able to come
1126 back to work.

1127 So, um, I mean, I think -- could we -- can we -- can we at least consider that? Uh, Mr.
1128 Lawson, you're having trouble again hearing you.

1129 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** (unintelligible)?

1130 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Oh, sorry, Mayor Felder.

1131 **MAYOR FELDER:** Yes, again, this vote doesn't go through tonight. Um, we still have

1132 two beaches open in our city, correct?

1133 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** We --

1134 **MAYOR FELDER:** But they would be county beaches?

1135 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** We -- we will have Phil Foster Park open and, uh, Ocean --
1136 Ocean Reef Park will be open and that's my concern.

1137 **MAYOR FELDER:** But my -- my question --

1138 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** That's -- that -- those (unintelligible), yes. Go ahead, I'm
1139 sorry.

1140 **MAYOR FELDER:** But we have no control over what the county's doing?

1141 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** No, the county will open --

1142 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** That --

1143 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** The county will open Phil Foster Park and Ocean Reef Park
1144 on Monday morning. I'm sorry Mr. Evans, did you have something to say?

1145 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** And -- and Palm Beach -- and Palm Beach Shores, um --

1146 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Oh, yes. The Mayor of Palm Beach Shores is very, very
1147 concerned about this because his beach is opening. Absolutely, they've made that
1148 decision, the Palm Beach Shores will be open on Monday morning. And Mayor Fiers
1149 and I had a -- Fiers and I had a conversation just this morning where he said, "Please,
1150 please, implore your colleagues to open the beach because our beach will be open and
1151 if -- if you don't open your beach then our beach is gonna be -- we -- we won't be able
1152 sustain it." And so, I mean, it -- the county beach will open, Palm Beach Shores will
1153 open. Phil Foster's gonna be open. And people will be there, you know, whether -- we
1154 can't control that. We have no control over that. The only thing we can control is
1155 spreading out people in a more widely -- widely dispersed area to try to keep the crowd
1156 levels down for the health of people. It -- it's -- you know, it's healthier for people to be
1157 out there when they're further apart. If they're all jam packed into Palm Beach Shores or
1158 jam packed into Ocean Reef Park, it will not be healthy for people. We're -- you're
1159 defeating -- what your intent is, and I think your intent is to keep people healthy. And if
1160 we don't open up and people are jammed into those little areas it won't be good for
1161 people. Um, Miss Miller-Anderson, go ahead.

1162 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** So, for Palm Beach County, with their
1163 openings, they're not looking to limit the amount of people that are coming in, they're
1164 just gonna let everybody come in?

1165 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** I believe their capacity numbers will be predicated on their

1166 parking and when -- when I say 1,800, um, obviously we don't have 1,800 parking spots
1167 at Ocean, um, Mall. So, when the surrounding parking fills up, the 1,800 number is if
1168 people walked in but once that parking lot is filled, it's filled. So, um, we -- when we did
1169 the calculation for Ocean Reef, if we applied the same matrix that we're utilizing for our
1170 beach, we believe their capacity to be about at 1,100 people.

1171 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Okay, but they're not going to limit the
1172 amount. They -- they -- their plan does not -- they -- they don't have a plan, do they?
1173 What is their plan?

1174 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Not --

1175 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Just to open?

1176 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, not the -- their plan is to open, uh, to have their
1177 restrooms open, to have the shower restrooms -- or showers available. Social
1178 distancing. But they do not have a situation where they're going to having -- they said
1179 that they're gonna have, uh, lifeguards out there and staff out there but they haven't
1180 enumerated exactly the nuances of their plan, uh, with regards to how their gonna
1181 manage the beach. And -- and that's something we would certainly reach out to them
1182 and find out how they plan to -- to operate. Um, you know, to --

1183 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Yeah, 'cause I mean, that in itself is --
1184 sounds like a serious concern for me if they're not going to try to spread even those
1185 people out who will come to their parks.

1186 Um, and I -- you know, I totally sympathize and empathize with the hotel and tourism
1187 industry, um, but I do know that there are a number of industries, unfortunately, that
1188 have suffered behind this whole -- matter of fact, our children our suffering because we
1189 have a number of kids who are not getting on the computer doing their work. They have
1190 essentially had almost a five-month summer vacation. Um, and so, there's a number of
1191 people that are suffering in various ways.

1192 Um, but I -- I just, you know, I -- I certainly, like I said, um, one of the, I think, the
1193 governor's reopening plan says, "Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step Approach". I don't see it as
1194 being a step-by-step approach; it sounds -- seems like we're just diving in, um, with the
1195 reopening of it. Um, and even with the others, I mean, a number of places that -- I could
1196 write a whole list of places in which I feel that, you know, we probably should have gone
1197 a little slower on.

1198 But I understand that politics and economics is playing into this decision and we're not --
1199 there's no way in the world they could be thinking about people's health in with these
1200 decisions that have been made. Um, I asked, like I said, today, May 15th, I -- I don't
1201 support it but I would certainly, you know, be open to seeing what happens and -- and at
1202 our first meeting in June, and bring the situation back up, should it not pass. Um, and
1203 then -- and that'll give us the two weeks to see if the numbers have declined as stated in

1204 the governor's plan and the president's plan. Um, but as of right now, the numbers are
1205 not going down but Palm Beach County, I mean, May 10th, yet -- so far, it shows 22.
1206 Then May 11th, 124 new cases. May 12th, 144 cases. May 13th, 117 cases. And then
1207 overall there -- you have one day of a dip but then you go up the second and third day
1208 and you drop back down.

1209 So, there's -- there's no consistency on this going away. But that's where I am and that's
1210 kinda the end of my comments. I would be certainly open to it looking at it at the
1211 beginning of June. Thank you.

1212 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Uh, Miss Lanier?

1213 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Yeah, I just wanted to say that I -- I sincerely and totally
1214 agree with, uh, um, Miller-Anderson and, uh, Mr., uh, Douglas Lawson. Um, being a
1215 public health official and being in this field for 30 years in terms of how viruses work,
1216 how public health works. You know, we have to be clear, here, about what happens
1217 when you reopen.

1218 We understand that the essential workers, the people who are going to wait tables,
1219 wash dishes, you know, be on the front line, you know, they are mostly minority
1220 populations. So, we have to be very careful, given the fact that the City of Riviera Beach
1221 is 80% minority. So, we are looking at a give and take, here. We're looking at the fact
1222 that we're gonna be able to provide public health information and we also want to be
1223 able to, you know, get economic development going but not in the face of just plain out,
1224 straight out science. I mean, you know, I -- I -- every Thursday we're on a call with the
1225 Public Health Director. You know, every Tuesday we're looking at statistics from, you
1226 know, the State of Florida, from Palm Beach County, from, uh, from Dade County, uh --
1227 uh, Broward County; the reason why we were not a part of the reopening plan was
1228 because why? We had the most cases. Same way that I work every day and last year
1229 they declared that South Florida was number one in new HIV cases.

1230 So, it is no, you know, it's no big leap to understand that any health disparities that
1231 come to this particular area is going to disproportionately affect people who look like
1232 me. So, I understand that reason why we want to be able to move forward and because
1233 people are moving forward, uh, you know, around us. So, I would support anything
1234 going forward with a serious public health campaign to be able to do that, to be able to
1235 move forward.

1236 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Any other comments?

1237 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Madam Chair?

1238 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Go ahead, Mr. Lawson, you're recognized.

1239 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Thank you. Um, Mr. Evans, would you be able to, uh,
1240 reach out to the county because I want to really understand what parameters, because I

1241 -- I saw that the vote was passed 5-2 with no restrictions in place. But I'm very
1242 concerned with the other beaches opening and us having absolutely no restrictions at
1243 those surrounding beaches.

1244 If this vote does pass tonight, we're gonna have an influx of individuals traveling to our --
1245 our beaches and that's gonna cause for a nightmare. Um, I understand that Phil
1246 Foster's policed by PBSO. I understand that we have a few other surrounding beaches
1247 that are not policed by our staff but we're essentially gonna be in -- in charge of handling
1248 the safety of our residents, uh, regardless of what happens with this vote tonight.

1249 So, I'm -- I'm very concerned with us moving forward with no restrictions on any of the
1250 other surrounding beaches. So, if this vote doesn't go through, I would really want us to
1251 have a discussion of petitioning our county and our surrounding municipalities to
1252 incorporate some type of restrictive measures.

1253 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Um --

1254 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Do we have any -- um, I'm sorry, um, Mr. Evans.

1255 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Madam Chair?

1256 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Mr., uh, Mr. Lawson, do we have a say so in that,
1257 though?

1258 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Uh, I mean, we can -- we can petition that the
1259 surrounding -- that the county put restrictive measures in place. Um, we can request
1260 that we have no say so in regards to how the vote goes but we can ask for that support
1261 and for the safety for our residents.

1262 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, with regards to the -- the county's, um, beaches, what --
1263 what they anticipate, what -- what they've communicated is that they will, uh, utilize the
1264 CDC guidance and direction for building out their model. So, we can anticipate them
1265 having, you know, when I said the 1,100 number, the 1,100 number is based on them
1266 separating parties, you know, six feet et cetera. Uh, so, they're -- they're going to have
1267 some type of, um, program put in place.

1268 They're still working on the emergency order but there's not going to be all the nuances
1269 and items that are articulated in how we're going to -- to move forward. So, once we get
1270 that emergency order, that's when staff is gonna really dig into how the county will
1271 operate in their -- on their beaches and we put together the plan as to how it would like
1272 if we were to move forward with reopening. But we can, uh, once the county does
1273 articulate their order, we can then get some more specificities as it relates to the, um,
1274 the county parks. As well as Palm Beach Shores, we'll have to reach out to them and
1275 find out what they're doing, 'cause PBSO is gonna be policing all of those, um, in the
1276 community, anyway.

1277 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Well, um, Madam Chair? The restrictions that they voted

1278 on, which they've already voted pertaining to concessions. Um, so, because of that, um,
1279 you know, they -- they basically said that, you know, they removed all restrictions.

1280 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Yeah.

1281 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** And, you know, I -- you know, and -- in -- in
1282 understanding, uh, a Commissioner, uh, Miller-Anderson and Commissioner Lawson
1283 and where they're coming from and understand that this is a very difficult decision to
1284 make in terms of just pure science and public health. We're not talking about how I feel
1285 about it, we're not talking about how the Chair feels about it. We're looking at pure
1286 science and epidemiology and how viruses spread and what is happening right now in
1287 Palm Beach County. So, if we're gonna look at how we're going to move forward, we
1288 are always basically kinda tied with Broward and Dade. They have not voted yet in how
1289 they're going to proceed. Maybe we can look and see what they got goin' on. Because
1290 they do have, you know, better, bigger beaches than us -- not saying better -- I take that
1291 back. They have bigger beaches than us.

1292 But, you know, I -- I really want to ere on the side of caution, here. And even though I
1293 want to move forward in terms of opening beaches I also want to be very careful in
1294 terms of just my public health hat. Of how we move forward in terms of public health
1295 and public information. So, you know, we can, you know, we can have this discussion
1296 all night long and I think at this point we need to just vote.

1297 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Any other comments from the Council? Anything else from
1298 you, Mr. Evans?

1299 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, no, Madam Chair.

1300 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Okay. I -- I -- you know, it's obvious right now that we're
1301 gonna have -- it seems to me anyway to be obvious, that we might have a two-two vote
1302 which would mean that the motion of when its made would be defeated. I'm -- it's
1303 unfortunate that Mr. McCoy isn't with us to weigh in. I don't know -- does anyone -- did
1304 anyone hear from him? Mr. Evans, did you hear from Mr. McCoy?

1305 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, no, Madam Chair, I did not hear from, um, Mr. McCoy.

1306 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Uh, Miss Lanier, did you want to say something? No? Okay.
1307 Well, uh, we need somebody to make a motion. This is not written in a form of a motion,
1308 so can someone make a motion to, um, open the beaches? We don't have anybody to -
1309 - willing to make a motion? We need somebody to make a motion. Well, if it looks --
1310 looks like --

1311 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Miss Wynn,

1312 **CITY ATTORNEY WYNN:** Madam Chair, I have a question for Miss Wynn. I have a
1313 question for Miss Wynn.

1314 **CITY ATTORNEY WYNN:** Yes?

1315 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** So, we would be making a -- so, if we don't
1316 make the motion to open the beaches that stays as is, um, as we currently are?

1317 **CITY ATTORNEY WYNN:** That's correct.

1318 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Okay. And then afterwards though, we can
1319 talk about something about maybe how we're gonna move forward?

1320 **CITY ATTORNEY WYNN:** I didn't hear that last part; you can talk about?

1321 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** How we can move forward or if possibly --

1322 **CITY ATTORNEY WYNN:** Yes.

1323 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Okay. All right, thank you.

1324 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Okay. Uh, Mr. Evans, are we gonna be monitoring what's
1325 happening at Phil Foster Park and -- I'm really very, very concerned about what
1326 happens at Phil Foster and what happens at Ocean Reef in particular, and what
1327 happens at our neighbors in Palm Beach Shores. Are we going to be taking a look at
1328 that and checking in with the police to see, you know, has it really been the catastrophe
1329 that I anticipate it will be in terms of the numbers and a potential for sickness being
1330 transmitted if we don't open?

1331 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** We --

1332 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** And I think we really need to be aware --

1333 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** We -- we will --

1334 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Okay. Uh-huh?

1335 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** We will -- we will work with the county and, um, PBSO, uh,
1336 to get real-time information as to what will, uh, the impacts be or what's occurring. Uh,
1337 we still would have deployed assets on the beach to ensure that, uh, the beach does
1338 remain closed and the beaches in our community, uh, remained closed. Uh, so there
1339 will be, uh, some additional, um, protocols that will be built out to accommodate the
1340 county's desire. If it desires not to open.

1341 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I mean, it's -- especially at -- at the fringes of Ocean Reef
1342 Park and the fringe of Palm Beach Shores where people will be spilling out from those
1343 areas onto Riviera Beach -- beaches. That's -- that's gonna be a -- I'm sure we'll have
1344 lots of police; the police department is gonna be inundated with, uh, people wandering
1345 off the -- the, uh, the areas that are -- that are open onto the areas that are not open. It -
1346 - it's just gonna be very, very confusing for the police, it's gonna be very confusing for,

1347 uh, the enforcement, uh, so, but it is -- it is what it is. I've made my -- uh, you all know
1348 how I feel; I think that you need to open and open carefully as Mr. Evans and Aladia
1349 Franks has -- have laid out. It -- it looks to me like they've done an excellent job of -- of
1350 insuring the health of the people who do decide to go to the beach and, um, I'm really
1351 sad that we are not gonna take this vote.

1352 So, it looks like nobody's willing to make a motion and so, um, I guess we need to move
1353 on. Um, discussion by City Manager.

1354 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Uh, no further comments and I will, uh, work with legal to
1355 put out the notification to the public with regards to, uh, the beaches still remaining
1356 closed until further notice.

1357 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Discussion by City Attorney?

1358 **CITY ATTORNEY WYNN:** No comment.

1359 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Uh, do we have any Committee reports? Uh,
1360 Councilmember, uh, statements starting with the Mayor?

1361 **MAYOR FELDER:** Yeah, no comments.

1362 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Uh, Miss Lanier?

1363 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** No comments.

1364 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Mr. Lawson?

1365 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Thank you, Madam Chair, no comments.

1366 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Miss Miller-Anderson?

1367 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Um, I wanted to see if we could look at
1368 maybe putting this on the -- what would it be, the, um, the June 3rd meeting possibly?
1369 The first, if we could bring this back up? Um --

1370 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Okay.

1371 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** On the June 3rd -- the first meeting in June
1372 and see how things have played out and see, you know --

1373 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Okay.

1374 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** -- how Memorial Day goes and if that'll be
1375 time for the numbers to hopefully go down and to see what the other municipalities and
1376 counties are doing. So, for June 3rd.

1377 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Okay.

1378 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Okay.

1379 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I guess that would be our first opportunity. Our next meeting
1380 is on the 20th of this month, am I right about that?

1381 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Yeah, I think --

1382 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Yes.

1383 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Yes.

1384 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** All right, so, you -- you want to wait until -- you don't want to
1385 consider it then, you want to wait till June?

1386 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** The first, yeah. The first week of June. The
1387 -- June 3rd.

1388 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Um, we -- we have something coming up on the, um, June
1389 20th agenda with regard to, uh, allowing the restaurants -- I'm -- I'm hopeful that we can
1390 -- we can pass that. The restaurants are really hurting on Ocean Walk Mall and I'm
1391 hoping that when we have our discussions about the closure of that road, we can come
1392 to some consensus about making that happen. Um, but I guess that will have to wait
1393 until the 20th since it wasn't on this agenda. Um --

1394 **COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON:** Okay.

1395 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I don't have anything else to add, uh, so, seeing that there
1396 are no other comments, this meeting is adjourned.

1397 (CONCLUSION OF MEETING)

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CITY CLERK

DOUGLAS A. LAWSON
CHAIR PRO TEM

TRADRICK MCCOY
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KASHAMBA MILLER-ANDERSON
COUNCILPERSON

SHIRLEY D. LANIER
COUNCILPERSON

MOTIONED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

T. MCCOY: _____

K. MILLER-ANDERSON: _____

S. LANIER: _____

J. BOTEL: _____

D. LAWSON: _____

DATE APPROVED: **AUGUST 5, 2020**