

31 **Invocation**

32 **Pledge of Allegiance**

33 (Everyone observed a Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance being led by
34 Councilperson Lanier).

35 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Do we have any additions or deletions or
36 substitutions on the agenda?

37 **AGENDA Approval:**

38 Additions, Deletions, Substitutions

39 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** None from staff, Madam Chair.

40 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I am going to add one -- thank you, Mr. City Manager.
41 Anyone from council? I'm going to add a vote with regard to public comments so we'll
42 take that up in just a moment. Do we have any disclosures by council? Can I have a
43 motion to adopt the agenda?

44 **Disclosures by Council**

45 **Adoption of Agenda**

46 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** So moved.

47 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Second.

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

49 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Madam Chair, prior to taking the vote we need to read
50 the --

51 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I'm going to read --

52 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** -- the communication from Councilperson Miller-
53 Anderson.

54 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I -- I was -- I was going to accept the agenda first and
55 then do that.

56 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Okay. No problem.

57 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you.

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

59 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Yes.

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

61 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Yes.

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

63 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Here -- yes.

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

65 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Okay. I have a communication from
66 Councilwoman Miller-Anderson. I'd like to read that into the record. "Good morning. This
67 is Councilwoman KaShamba Miller-Anderson, and I wanted to make sure I communicated
68 why I'm not present in this morning's Special City Council Meeting.

69 "First, I have been very transparent as recent as last Wednesday night that
70 although Palm Beach County schools are not physically open, educators such as myself
71 are still very much working and obligated to their eight-hour shift each workday from
72 home. Ironically, I had to physically report back to work starting today to close out the
73 school year. So colleagues, you are very aware that calling a meeting at this time of the
74 day would be problematic for me. Calling a meeting at 10 a.m. when most of your
75 constituents are working, not to mention calling this meeting within a short 24-hour period,
76 has definitely denied many residents the opportunity to view or participate in the
77 discussion.

78 "For as long as I can recall when scheduling our city meetings whether special or
79 regular, we have always kept all residents in mind in setting a time in the evening when
80 most of them could participate. They have also complained about doing the opposite.
81 The only time meetings were called at odd times of the day, which didn't happen often,
82 was when council members did not want their constituents to be fully aware of the
83 meeting, and they did not want certain members to be at the meeting or it was concerning
84 a life, health or safety issue that could not wait until an evening time slot. Sadly to say,
85 I'm surprised to see how underhanded this meeting was called. If you truly wanted --
86 wanted everyone to participate you would have scheduled it for the evening or tomorrow
87 evening's meeting. Thank you." Now I would like to -- Miss Anthony?

88 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Let the record reflect that Pro Tem Lawson is now with
89 us.

90 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Great. Thank you. I would like to pass the gavel to Pro
91 Tem Lawson to make a motion. So I move that we limit public comments to one minute
92 in order to be -- in order that we can all stay at the meeting for as long as possible. Can
93 I get a second or would you call for a second --

94 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Oh, procedurally --

95 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** -- Mr. --

96 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** -- I have some procedural questions.

97 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Sure.

98 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** So you passed the gavel, and you already
99 acknowledged yourself to give a comment or to make --

100 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** CHAIRPERSON BOTEL, I make -- may I make a
101 motion? Thank you, Mr. McCoy.

102 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** No. No. I'm asking --

103 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. I'm sorry. Mr. McCoy, what are you asking?

104 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** You know, I certainly respect you want to do a
105 motion, but I don't agree that you can pass the gavel as being the chairperson. There's
106 no rule that allows you to do such. When you -- you can only pass the gavel when you
107 have a conflict, and you're -- and you have something that potentially conflicts that, you
108 shouldn't be participating on that item or -- that's it. That's the only way that you should
109 not be passing the gavel. So --

110 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Well, I have -- I have legal advice to the contrary. So
111 Miss Lanier, do you have a comment?

112 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** I'd like to make a motion to limit our public
113 comments to one minute based on the nature of the meeting.

114 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Can I get a second?

115 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Second.

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

117 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Councilperson McCoy?

118 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Yes.

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

120 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Yes.

121 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Pro Tem Lawson?

122 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Yes.

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

124 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Yes.

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

126 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. I would also like to have the discussion by
127 council on this topic first and then we'll read the public comments. I think it would be --
128 well, that's what I'm going to do. So Attorney Wynn, do we need -- should we make a
129 motion to open the beaches now and then open for discussion?

130 **CITY ATTORNEY WYNN:** Chair Botel, the Mayor called the meeting so I think
131 you have to give the Mayor the opportunity --

132 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Oh, yes. Sorry. (Unintelligible). Yes. I will do that. I'm
133 very sorry. Mayor, would you like to make a comment?

134 **MAYOR FELDER:** Yes. Yes, I would, and first of all I'd like to thank my
135 colleagues. I know it's early morning that I called this meeting just to address some of
136 the issues that we are facing on a daily basis and some of the issues that one of our
137 councilpersons couldn't be here. And I want to ensure our community, our residents that
138 I called this meeting on Sunday because we was being -- getting inundated with calls, e-
139 mails, and not just to -- because we had such a great amount of e-mails, but I'm making
140 this decision based on the evidence, the decisions that were made by people that I trust
141 that's in our community, as Riviera Beach had been doing a stellar job in this pandemic
142 condition that we've been in, particularly as a city.

143 I do want our residents to know this, that I have talked to no one about this issue.
144 This is just from the Mayor's heart from the information that he has gathered. So from
145 me, it was no underhanded meeting, no underhanded conversations that took place. I
146 can assure you of that. This is -- this is from the Mayor. And -- and so I just wanted to
147 clean that up. The reason I called this meeting is because, you know, for the past two
148 months, two and a half months, our team from our city manager to our chief of police, to
149 our chief fireman have been following the lead of the county and we have done a
150 wonderful job. This city has -- they have put us on the map that we've been doing that.
151 No other city has been doing in this county.

152 And so as I look back -- I know we were in a meeting Wednesday, and we wanted
153 to know what the county was going to do about their beaches. And so we called a special
154 meeting for Friday because the county called a meeting that -- that morning. Okay. So I
155 was kind of surprised that the vote went like -- or it was no vote. It was even -- wasn't
156 even put up for a motion. But I was kind of surprised what took place because as I looked
157 back, I believe our team, as it came up, Miss Franks -- from Miss Franks on that -- that
158 showed us how we would protect our beaches. I was very confident that they would do
159 a good job in making sure that our residents would be safe. And if it wasn't, that they
160 would report back to us to let us know that it's not working and we would have the decision
161 then to shut it down.

162 So not even bringing that up for a discussion, knowing that -- I could understand
163 that if the county was not going to open their beaches, to me it would have been an easier
164 decision to say, I don't think we should open our beach either, because the county's not

165 opened their beaches. (Unintelligible) vote coming into our city, because you already had
166 two beaches that was going to open and a third beach in Palm Beach Shores that were
167 going to open. It's not going to stop the traffic from coming into Riviera Beach.

168 What -- the plan that our team put together is they thought it would be better for us
169 to open our beach to alleviate some of the traffic and that we can control our beaches. I
170 have great confidence in our team as I have had for the last two or two and a half months
171 when it come down to that decision. Now, again, it's decisions to be made. I meant --
172 I'm not saying open the -- the -- the beach and everybody goes. Listen. You have to
173 have wisdom and common sense that, listen, if you have a -- if you're compromised in
174 any way in -- in -- in your health, no, you shouldn't be at the beach. As the Mayor, I won't
175 be to the beach. But I don't want to just say or base it upon myself not wanting to go --
176 not wanting to go to the beach because whether -- whether I think -- for whatever reason.
177 I -- I don't want to base it solely on me.

178 I want to base it solely on the facts that we've been given. And I believe our team
179 has laid out these facts. Now, we have a lot more issues. And I want to stand up even
180 before our council members that have been called out because maybe one couldn't be to
181 the meeting Friday night. But you know, everybody know the position he had to take
182 Friday night in dealing with a funeral, couldn't be on that meeting Friday night. And I just
183 want to owe him because I was at his uncle's funeral Saturday, as he asked me to be
184 there to read a proclamation. But, you know, looking at this city and seeing how separated
185 we've become on this issue, I just want to say every issue in this city is important to me
186 as Mayor. Every decision.

187 And I wanted to say, Listen. We're going to be inundated with this. We have a lot
188 more issues. I know Councilman McCoy, Councilman Lawson has other issues that we
189 need to move on to. This is one issue we need to deal with today, move on so we can
190 tackle other issues. You know, we're getting calls every day about the (unintelligible).
191 I'm getting calls every day about people needs permits and just -- just different stuff. It's
192 -- it's bigger issues that we -- or more issues, not bigger issues that we have to deal with.
193 There are more issues on a daily basis that we have to deal with. And I don't want this to
194 stagnate us.

195 If we open up our beaches, I'm here to tell every resident it doesn't mean you have
196 to go to the beach. We opened up barbershops. We opened up restaurants. It don't
197 mean that you have to go get a haircut. You choose to go get a haircut. It doesn't mean
198 you have to go to a restaurant. You choose to go to a restaurant. And so if the concern
199 is opening up, listen, the whole country is going through a phase one opening. And so
200 I'm telling residents, Listen. It does not mean you have to go out just because we're
201 opening up. You have to have common sense and wisdom to know, I can't -- I'm not
202 going to go because I don't want -- my parents are 80 years old so I don't want to go
203 around them knowing that I've just been out amongst people. So that's a decision I have
204 to make. But I don't want that decision to be based on what everybody's dealing with.

205 Now, we have hotels that we have to deal with that -- that our main concern is that

206 they -- they are managing their own social distancing with their guests. And so we have
207 the decision to make. Listen, we know -- we know I -- I don't want to open up the -- the
208 beaches to say just for economics or a money reason. I want to open up knowing that
209 we're doing the right thing. And I think it is a right thing because we have a good team
210 that's going to keep us informed that if it's working, we can go on; if it's not working.

211 Second -- second, what -- what makes me stick to this decision is I know that we
212 have testing going on in our city now. And that's one of the big things that when you are
213 opening up your city, you have testing and I -- we have a couple of test sites. And I'll be
214 putting that on the website. Just the test sites throughout Riviera Beach that you can go
215 to. We want to make sure that our people are still getting tested in the areas that we
216 know that's affecting the people the most. That's the black and brown communities. Now,
217 we have these issues that I want -- you know, I know we've become really reactive when
218 stuff happen, but this -- this is some stuff I want to be proactive about. And I'm asking
219 both sides of the city to come together, the east and the west. From Singer Island, I need
220 you guys. I need you guys to care about Monroe Heights streets just like if it was your
221 own streets. I need you -- there's some issues that we have on the west side. I need you
222 guys to step up and work with us along to make sure our residents on the west side is
223 getting a fair treatment. So I want to bring this city together. I think it's time.

224 I think, you know, of course there are some disparities that we need to talk about,
225 whether it's economics, whether it's health. And I pray and I hope that we get to those
226 discussions, you know, when we get through this pandemic and that we don't wait till it
227 happens again. But we begin the conversation to make sure that everybody in this city
228 have the fair opportunity. So I -- I want our city to -- to really come together today in unity.
229 Let's not be disunified. We have done a great job showing -- our leadership has done a
230 great job. Our council has done a great job in this pandemic. It's not time for us to fall
231 apart now. This is the time for us to come together and build upon what our staff and
232 what our leadership has put together.

233 Listen, it's -- there is no power on this -- this council. All right? But we have a job
234 to do and we were elected to do a job. Understand that we're not going to please
235 everybody. But we have to make a decision today not based on our feelings, but based
236 on what we know is right. And so you -- you know, you guys have the decision to make
237 as a council. I'm asking that you support the beaches being opened only because -- only
238 because we have beaches open in our city, and when Chief Curd laid out that plan that it
239 would be better for us to open to alleviate some of the traffic that's going to be coming in
240 our city, and we can control our beaches, I'm for that. And -- and I'm asking for your
241 support today that we don't have to linger this out because there's other issues, man, that
242 we have to deal with. This is one we can put to the side and we can go to the next.

243 But every issue as small as a permit, somebody's calling me to get a permit done
244 at their house, that's just as -- more important to me as -- as working with residents on
245 Singer Island to get the beach open. So let's make a decision today to bring this city
246 together. That's what I'm about. And I -- and I'll leave you with this: Let's do it. And I'm
247 -- I'm requesting that if we make a motion and it -- and it pass, open the beaches at 12:00
248 today so we can move on to the next thing. Councilman McCoy, I know you have some

249 concerns that I want to be a champion for you to help fight some of those concerns. But
250 right now isn't the time to fall apart. Right now is the time for leadership to come together.
251 It's time for this community to come together. We are a resilient city. Let's show it. Let's
252 not let this break us.

253 And again, to residents, you don't have to go to the barbershop. You don't have
254 to go to a restaurant and you don't have to go to a beach. Hey, you use your common
255 sense to know where you can go and where you can't. But just understand this. The
256 country and the cities and the counties are opening back up. And so this is just my plea
257 to say I believe we should open up our beaches, and this is just me. Nobody else coerced
258 me to say this. I have not been in no meetings, no -- no backdoor meetings. This is your
259 Mayor and you can believe in this: I'm going to make the decision based on how I feel.
260 Whether it's right or wrong, you elected me and I'll live with it whether it's right or wrong.
261 But this is my decision today to open up the beach. And if it passes, I'm going to ask that
262 we give this city manager the authority to open up the beaches 12:00 today so we can
263 move on to our next issues. Thank you.

264 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you, Mayor. Phew. I think Miss Lanier raised
265 her hand first and then Mr. McCoy. Councilwoman Lanier, please.

266 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** I just wanted to say of course I support that, but I
267 do want to caution you guys, I'm actually on leave right now for an hour to do this meeting.
268 And 11:15, I have to leave because I do have another meeting for my job that I have to
269 chair. So I just really want to let you guys know that I was not for this meeting being held
270 on today because of the fact that I do have a job and I have to work. So if we can go
271 ahead on and move this meeting along, I am on leave right now and I need to get to a
272 meeting at 11:15, so I do need to be able to make this vote and we can move this forward.
273 So in that vein, we can move this along, please.

274 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you, Councilwoman Lanier. We'll try to limit our
275 own comments, have those comments quickly first, and then get through public
276 comments. Thank you. Mr. McCoy?

277 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Madam Chair, if I can can I put out the motion or
278 are we doing public comments first?

279 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** You can put up the motion.

280 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Okay. Members, I move that we direct the city
281 manager to open up both city-owned beaches as well as private beaches as soon as
282 possible.

283 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Can we get a second?

284 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Second.

285 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Okay. Thank you. Now we'll have a little discussion by

286 us as quickly as possible, then get through the public comments so we can vote as quickly
287 as we can to allow Miss Lanier to participate. Any other comments by council?

288 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Madam Chair, if we could go to public comment first
289 before I make any comments?

290 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Okay. Thank you. Madam Clerk, would you read the
291 public comments, limiting them to a minute apiece? Thank you.

292 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Madam Chair, Miss Hall will begin to read the public
293 comments that we have received.

294 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you.

295 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** And to accept public comments is now closed.

296 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Could she speed-read them? I'm sorry. We're not
297 hearing her.

298 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Okay, Madam Chair. Hold for a moment. Let me grab
299 the public comments from Miss Hall.

300 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you.

301 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Okay, Madam Chair. We apologize for that delay.

302 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** That's all right. Thank you very much.

303 **Comments From the Public on Consent Agenda**

304 **(Three Minute Limitation)**

305 **CONSENT AGENDA**

306 **ALL MATTERS LISTED UNDER THIS ITEM ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE**
307 **AND ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE**
308 **DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS UNLESS A COUNCILPERSON SO REQUESTS, IN**
309 **WHICH EVENT, THE ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE GENERAL ORDER OF**
310 **BUSINESS AND CONSIDERED IN ITS NORMAL SEQUENCE ON THE AGENDA.**

311 **MINUTES**

312 **RESOLUTIONS**

313 **END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

314 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

315 **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR FILING**

316 **AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

317 **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

318 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - 7:30 PM Non-Agenda Item Speakers (Three**
319 **Minute Limitation)**

320 Public Comments should be restricted to issues, matters, or topics pertinent to the City of
321 Riviera Beach. Please be reminded that the City Council has adopted "Rules of Decorum
322 Governing Public Conduct during Official Meetings".

323 Public Comments shall begin at 7:30 PM unless there is no further business of the City
324 Council, which in that event, it shall begin sooner. In addition, if an item is being
325 considered at 7:30 PM, then comments from the public shall begin immediately after the
326 item has been concluded.

327 Any member of the public wishing to comment publicly on any matter, including items on
328 the agenda, shall submit their comments by email to City Clerk Claudene Anthony at
329 publiccomments@rivierabeach.org. The email shall contain the applicable agenda item
330 number(s) along with the precise wording to be read into the record; explicit language will
331 not be read. Emails without applicable agenda item number(s) will be read under the
332 general Public Comment Section. Be advised, public comments will be accepted, for each
333 applicable item and the general Public Comment Section, until closure is announced by
334 the Chairperson or the City Clerk.

335 All email addresses and submitted comments are and will be public record. (Chapters
336 119 & 668, Florida Statutes)

337 The City Clerk or designee will read public comments into the record at the appropriate
338 time for no more than three (3) minutes unless the time limit is reduced by a vote of the
339 Council based on the voluminous nature of the number of public comments received.

340 If you have any questions please contact the City Clerk's Office at (561) 845-4090 or
341 email crobinson@rivierabeach.org.

342 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** The first public comment comes from Mark Fuller: "I
343 hope that our city council will execute a plan to open the beach in front of Ocean Mall
344 immediately. We should have opened today just as the rest of the beaches on the island
345 did. I believe that the city has the capability to open the beach in a safe and well-executed
346 manner so let's get it done."

347 The next public comment comes from Andrea Schroth: "All beaches on Singer
348 Island need to follow the same directive. This will prevent overcrowding at portions that
349 are open. Plus, we have many miles of beach that will not overcrowd anyway. Opening
350 the beach will increase safety by giving all residents in Riviera Beach more space for

351 recreation." Next public comment comes from Margaret Toy [phonetic]: "Open all
352 beaches; however, close public parking lots. That should do it."

353 Next public comment is from Danny Brooks: "I'm a resident of Sugar Sands.
354 Please reopen the beach. Palm Beach Shores has limited parking and drop-off only.
355 Riviera Beach could do the same as they screen or limit total parking in the city lot to have
356 capacity. There is no reason to have the deeded walkways blocked as there is no parking
357 available at either access point on Ocean Boulevard. Palm Beach Shores is open from
358 the town beach south to the inlet. The Marriott is allowing guests access. Ocean Reef
359 Park is open. There is no real rational reason that the beach cannot be open."

360 Next public comment comes from Jim Kane: "Please do your jobs this morning.
361 Refusing to make a motion or refusing to vote on a motion to reopen the Riviera Beach
362 beaches is insubordinate to the City since you work for it. Further, some of you have
363 expressed opinions that you have the authority to keep the private sections of the beach
364 closed. You do not. The hotels, condo associations and one house that front the beach
365 own the property above the mean high tide line. The State of Florida owns the land below.
366 The City of Riviera Beach has no ownership interest. If you continue to prohibit us from
367 using our properties, the City will be subject to significant illegal taking complaint from
368 some of its biggest taxpayers who pay the taxes to live on the beach and own the
369 property. It's our choice whether to use it, not yours." Next comment is from
370 Angela Nank [phonetic]: "Please open Singer Island Beaches. We live in a condo with a
371 private beach. We space our chairs very, very far apart. Even when there is not a
372 pandemic. The sun and fresh air is the best thing for us right now. People are getting
373 depressed. Please reopen." The next public comment comes from Adam Miller: "Good
374 afternoon, Mayor Felder, Mr. Evans, Dr. Botel, Miss Jacobs, Miss Lanier, Mr. McCoy,
375 Miss Miller-Anderson. Please consider opening the beaches. The crowded streets and
376 sidewalks that create more of a public health threat than the beach. My wife is high risk
377 and has a degenerative lung disease that is kept in check by regular exercising in clean
378 air. This can be safely accomplished on the beach. We have three active children that
379 greatly benefit from the beach. We are shocked and disappointed to see that our beaches
380 were not open. I respectfully ask that you would do everything in you power as an elected
381 official to represent the tax-paying people and open the beaches. We have traveled to
382 Manatee County and Martin County and Palm Beach in order to have beach access. If
383 there is no time frame for reopening a beach, a reduction prorated amount in property tax
384 should be deposited as discussed. Governor DeSantis' plan outlines guideline principles
385 for reopening as it states protections of civil liberties and maintaining individual rights
386 measures."

387 The next public comment comes from Lynn Robertson: "Please open our beaches.
388 We pay a lot of taxes to live on Singer Island. Either open all the beaches or all should
389 be closed. How can Palm Beach Shores be open and Phil Foster but not our private
390 beaches in our own back yard? Just doesn't make sense. Please make the decision to
391 open our beaches. P. S., this is posted on Riviera Beach website." Next public comment
392 comes from Deborah Starks: "Good morning. Please, for all the condos where all the
393 taxpayers in Singer Island who moved here for the beach, please open our beach. I sold

394 my home to retire specifically to come to Singer Island and live on the ocean to spend our
395 senior years sitting in front of the waves on a blanket after many years of very hard work,
396 stress and anxiety. I fear that this virus will be around for a long time and the safest way
397 to live is outside. I don't think all the condo dwellers need to walk or drive to a small beach
398 that will have many people when there's a wide open beach right in front of our door. I
399 lived here 40 years -- I lived here 40 years ago and came back to the same building to
400 make memories in the sunset years of my life. Please don't make me live it inside a small
401 condo. Thank you for your consideration."

402 Next public comment comes from Holly Rethcamp [phonetic]: "Please know how
403 can it be all right to open beaches on Palm Beach Shores and not on Riviera Beach side
404 of the island. The real point is is that there are very few people on the private condo
405 beach area. This is crazy. There are more people on the sidewalks, not to mention in
406 the businesses, than on our beaches. Our beaches are outside in a wide open space
407 and air and sun. Germs are blown away or burned up. Please open our beaches." Next
408 comment comes from Angela Nix: "Please reopen the beaches. We live on a private
409 beach. Very few people on it, even before the pandemic. Please, please, please. It's
410 good to combat depression."

411 The next public comment comes from Chris Zedwick [phonetic]: It says, "Reopen
412 the beaches. Listen to the people, your city manager, police and fire department." The
413 next public comment comes from Hilary Ward: "Dear Council, I respectfully request that
414 the council vote yes to follow the lead of Palm Beach County and open all the beaches of
415 the city of Riviera Beach." Comment from Holly Rethcamp: "Please open our beaches
416 on Riviera Beach, Singer Island. How is it okay to open large county beaches, Palm
417 Beach Shores beaches, not our Riviera Beach beaches? It makes absolutely no sense.
418 It's outside. There's fresh air. The sun burns up germs. The wind blows and breaks up
419 germs. There are more people on our sidewalks than ever on our beaches. Please open
420 our beaches."

421 The next comment comes from Debra Winward [phonetic]: "Riviera Beach City
422 Council and administration, as a resident of Riviera Beach for the past 23 years, I am
423 disappointed in the nonaction of the Riviera Beach City Council. Sounds like they are
424 telling us it's okay for Florida residents to use the beaches adjacent to Singer Island,
425 though Ocean Reef, Palm Beach Shores and Phil Foster Park, but will make the residents
426 of Riviera Beach who have access to the beach through their residences to go to the
427 county beach and come in contact with numerous people. Purposely enclosing the
428 beaches was because social distancing was not practiced. Now you have your residents
429 and taxpayers come into contact with numerous people through Ocean Reef, etc., to
430 enjoy a walk on the beach. Based on the nonaction, it sounds as though our elected
431 politicians do not want to answer to the public. It afforded the politicians with a way not
432 to debate the issue in public. I would surmise there were many individual discussions on
433 the topic prior to the meeting. I would also expect that the average age for the residents
434 of Singer Island is quite old, and affording them the opportunity." The next public
435 comment comes from Roger Amidon: "Dear City Clerk, in the interest of time, please do
436 not read my letter." My apologies. They sent in --

437 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Madam -- Madam Clerk? Never mind. Go ahead.
438 Keep going.

439 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** Okay. It says, "Dear Mayor Ronnie Felder, I am
440 kindly requesting your urgent attention to the matter of allowing our private beaches to
441 reopen as soon as possible. First I must impress upon you the importance of allowing
442 our private --"

443 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Madam Clerk, is -- is this Roger Amidon's message?

444 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** Yes.

445 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** He said not to read it. He wants us to move -- keep
446 moving.

447 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** Okay. Okay.

448 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Just read the next -- and you don't have to read the
449 next -- you don't have to say, "This comment comes from." Just read the name and read
450 the comment. Thank you.

451 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** Okay. The next public comment --

452 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** I'm -- I'm -- I'm sorry, Madam -- Madam Chair, I
453 know we're trying to rush through this meeting, and I know that we want to quickly make
454 this decision 'cause Councilwoman Lanier has to leave. But also taking into
455 consideration, we've all made the decision to be here, I'd like for Miss Anthony to read
456 the names, to read the comments and to stay how we've consistently done within this
457 board, Madam Chair. So I -- I -- I --

458 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Right. Excuse me. Mr. Lawson -- Mr. Lawson, excuse
459 me. Mr. Amidon said, "Don't read my letter."

460 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** I -- I understand, but you also just gave her direction
461 to just read the letter and the name. And what --

462 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** No, no, no, no, no. No, no, no. She doesn't have to
463 say every -- go ahead. Whatever you like. Just let's keep moving. Go ahead, Madam
464 Clerk.

465 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** The next public comment comes from NB in Ocean
466 Drive: "The expanse of beach on Singer Island is pretty much a social-distance beach
467 without the COVID crisis even during season. I've been out there and normally don't want
468 to set up close to any other beachgoer. I personally like a little privacy and it's usually
469 available with or without mandated social networking. Lastly, Ocean Reef is right in the
470 middle of condo row. That just encourages people to congregate in a very small area
471 due to the fact that the rest of the beach is closed. Not opening just doesn't make sense.
472 Sunshine and fresh air would be the -- a healthy physical and mental therapy to all who

473 have been stuck inside for weeks and in my opinion no risk. Occasional patrolling might
474 be a friendly reminder to follow the rules."

475 The next comment comes from Howard Warna [phonetic]: "Please reconsider
476 opening the beaches. I vehemently disagree with most of the council's concerns the past
477 Friday. It's just wrong on many fronts to keep our beaches closed." The next comment
478 comes from Dorina Lanza: "Riviera Beach certainly has the right and authority to close
479 its one and only beach by tomorrow. But that is the limit of its authority. The City does
480 not have the authority to infringe on private and state-owned land. Note that, in fact, the
481 municipal beach is the only beach Mr. Edwards (unintelligible) on May 17, 2020, actually
482 closed pursuant to this emergency order number 20-05, 'A municipal beach will remain
483 closed until further notice.' As far as the Singer Island private beaches and state-titled
484 beaches which are held in trust for public go, this is another story. There are two issues
485 here: Private property down to mean high water line and the state held property to the
486 east of that line. We will first discuss private property down to mean high water line. The
487 beaches, exclusive of the county and city beaches, are private property of the condo
488 owners and John at 5196 N. Ocean Drive down to the mean high water line. The condo
489 owners and John own these back yards."

490 The next public comment comes from Farah Tonos [phonetic]: "To whom it may
491 concern, as a young resident of Singer Island, I urge you to reopen our private beaches.
492 It is crucial that the council take swift action in reopening the beaches and the -- and
493 (unintelligible) to them. There are a host of reasons why this emanates such urgency.
494 Primarily the health of Singer Island residents is being compromised. By eliminating
495 access to the beach, residents are denied access to an area that will serve to improve
496 their health in this fragile environment that we are currently in. A scientific study recently
497 revealed that of the patients who caught mild cases of COVID-19 illness, 96 percent had
498 normal vitamin D levels. Of those patients who had severe or critical cases of COVID-19
499 illness, only 4 percent had normal vitamin D levels. This conclusory evidence includes
500 that 96 percent of patients who have severe critical levels of illness were vitamin D
501 deficient. Therefore, by denying residents a medium where vitamin D is accessible and
502 they can safely operate, it is compromising (unintelligible)."

503 Next public comment comes from Susan Bennett: "Please do the right thing and
504 align the Riviera Beach opening decision with -- with the county. It is time. More problems
505 will be created keeping it closed than opening. The private property portion of the
506 beaches must be governed by the community of owners at each beach site. Now that
507 the county has opened let's not make any of this more complicated or expensive than
508 necessary." The next public comment comes from Jennifer Caruso: "Beaches should be
509 open. This is an open-air venue. Sun, seawater and sand. There is no evidence that
510 coronavirus thrives and spreads in this environment. It's the last place where we should
511 be worrying about the virus spreading. Restaurants, salons, nail parlors, gyms, massage,
512 retail establishments and malls are all opening. If you are worried about the virus being
513 brought into our community, the last place you should be concerned about are the parks
514 and beaches which offer a safe environment for recreation for the citizens of Riviera
515 Beach. Open the beaches. I watched the last meeting, and it sure seemed like most

516 council members were trying to make political statement against the governor instead of
517 being part of the solution to help get our community opened up and protect our local
518 businesses and workers from economic catastrophe, as well as provide a safe
519 recreational outlet for its citizens. I spent today at Ocean Reef Park instead of my own
520 condo's beach. All was fine, Ocean Reef Park, but why shouldn't I be able to use my own
521 beach a few doors down? Crazy."

522 And the next public comment comes from John Miller: "Council, please listen to
523 your constituents on Singer Island. Major Josh Lewis and much of the staff put together
524 an excellent plan to keep our citizens safe and under crowd control on our municipal
525 beach. Our 41 high-rise condos and single-family development. I ask you to please open
526 our beaches. It makes zero sense since three beaches are already open on Singer
527 Island. Please listen to your constituents here on Singer Island."

528 Next public comment comes from Kay Randy [phonetic]: "Hello. I'm a resident
529 and live at 2700 N. Ocean Drive of Riviera Beach. I would like to request that you keep
530 the public beaches closed since you may have an influx of people who are not social
531 distancing. These beaches are not set up for that. I think that's the right call and those
532 should stay closed. But I do think that our private beach which gets just a small number
533 of residents should be allowed to reopen. We are social distancing at our pools in the
534 building and setting up lounges more than six feet apart. We should certainly be able to
535 do that on our private beach. Thank you for considering that."

536 The next public comes from Albert Seria [phonetic]: "Dear City Council, Riviera
537 Beach has always been amongst the best communities in Palm Beach. I believe we
538 should be one county in opening our beaches. There is a reason for opening everything
539 together as part of one large community. By keeping our beaches closed, you are telling
540 our residents that they're not ready to practice the guidelines put forth by the CDC of
541 social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, etc. While the majority of the state is
542 opening their beaches, we remain closed. We are a smart and respectful community,
543 and we should be given the benefit of the doubt that we will use safe practices as we
544 have for over two months now. Please trust and be fair to your citizens by opening the
545 beaches now with the rest of the community."

546 Next comment comes from Ben Starring [phonetic]: "As a resident of Singer
547 Island, it is -- it is kind to where I was to roam the beach. Sun, saltwater and heat kills
548 viruses, three things found in bountiful -- bountiful supply in our back yards. Please open
549 the beaches." Next comment is from Tom Fresco [phonetic]: "I feel that the private
550 beaches should be open because, number one, our beaches are never crowded. Number
551 two, we have inherently social distancing even before the pandemic. Three, the public
552 do not have access, nor public parking. Four, no beach means that people are crowding
553 our one sidewalk on N. Ocean Drive. And five, sun, salt and fresh air, some of the best
554 natural medicinal remedies."

555 Next public comment comes from Deborah Liberati: "Please, please, please, open
556 the beach. This is ridiculous. I pay 10 grand a year for this. Hello?" Next public comment
557 comes from Barbara Richard [phonetic]: "To whom it may concern, as a resident,

558 homeowner on Bimini Lane, Singer Island, I ask you to please open all beaches on Singer
559 Island. As a health care practitioner I implore you to allow people to go to one of the best
560 beaches on the planet to heal our bodies. We all imminently know this to be true. Fear
561 has driven us to ignore our instincts. Even if more people become infected with COVID-
562 19, do not close our beaches. We the people have elected you our officials to represent
563 us."

564 Next comment is from Nancy Cano: "Decision makers, thank you for your time
565 and efforts you have extended during these trying times. As a condo and beach owner
566 on Singer Island, I have supported your decisions in the past until the one you made
567 Friday evening. I see no need or benefit to keep the private and public beaches closed
568 while those right next door are open. Please rescind your previous decision and open
569 the beaches." The next comment comes from Randall Tuller: "Good morning. The City
570 does not have the power to close privately owned back yard. Similarly, the City does not
571 have the power to close privately owned beaches. Private property owners have the right
572 to use their private property. Thank you." Next comment is from Holly Rethcamp: "If
573 there is not enough time to read my comment at the meeting (unintelligible) --"

574 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Madam -- Madam Clerk I think you read hers already.
575 Thank you.

576 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** Okay. So the next one comes from Marvelous
577 Washington: "Thank you to the councilpersons that put public safety before politics by
578 voting to not open our beaches. Opening the beaches before the Memorial Day holiday
579 will attract tourists from other states and counties and particularly residents of Broward
580 and Dade County. The City does not have the resources to ensure social distancing is
581 happening once the beach is open. Not to mention we shall not continue to put staff in
582 harm's way. Why can't we wait until after the holiday to open up the beaches to actual
583 residents? There is a reason Broward and Dade Counties are not opening their beaches
584 until May 26th after their Memorial Day holiday. Please continue to put people before
585 politics." The next comment comes from Mike: "Open the beaches or you'll all be voted
586 out. Stop with the liberal anti-American fearmongering. Read the U.S. constitution which
587 is the law of the land, not your autocratic anti-American liberal policies." The next
588 comment, was already read by Councilperson Miller-Anderson.

589 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** No. And she submitted a public comment.

590 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** Okay. This is her public comment: "Good morning.
591 This is KaShamba Miller-Anderson, and I wanted to put on record that my hesitancy --
592 hesitancy to reopening the beach when we had the discussion on this past Friday
593 continues to center around the concern of doing it just prior to a major holiday when the
594 beach is highly attended. The fact that our county has not seen a consistent 14 days of
595 declining numbers for new cases as outlined by the governor and president to reopen into
596 different phases. Unfortunately the governor did not leave the decision to local
597 governments to reopen industries such as restaurants, liquor stores, gyms, hair salons,
598 etc., as some have pointed out, so unfortunately we have no say in that. For some reason
599 he chose to leave the decision about the beaches to us, so I've tried to weigh the

600 importance of health concerns along with the concerns of those wishing to access the
601 beach. Many constituents from the island have reached out to me via e-mail, and I have
602 communicated back to all of you that reached out to me over the weekend and assured
603 you that I would certainly be open to addressing this issue at a future meeting."

604 The next public comment comes from Donna Martell: "My husband and I are in
605 support of opening the beaches. Like everyone, we have been stuck in the house since
606 March, and as long as people keep it the six-foot rule, we feel that would not be a problem
607 as the beaches here are never overloaded. We also pay taxes for our back yard which
608 go to supporting the programs at Riviera Beach, and imagine if someone told you that
609 you couldn't go in your back yard. We vote yes, respectfully." Next public comment
610 comes from Lynn Sportis [phonetic]: "Council, the Water Glades Condominium approve
611 opening all beaches on Singer Island. If you do not want to open public beach, at least
612 open the privately owned beaches. Really don't believe you have authority to close
613 privately owned beaches, but to put this issue to an end please vote yes. Thank you."

614 Next public comment comes from Angela Nank: "Please open beaches. I live at
615 the Ritz Carlton with a private beach. We are never close together. It's good for our
616 health to be outside." The next public comment comes from -- it says E.H. Clark-Barr
617 [phonetic]: "Greetings, City Council. The executive order states the restrictions still in
618 place are the CDC guidelines of limit gatherings to no more than 10 persons and beach-
619 goers must adhere to social distancing. Department of Homeland Security identified Palm
620 Beach County as one of three emerging COVID hot spots in the U.S. If you think human
621 nature is going to abide by these safety guidelines to minimize a continued spread --
622 spreading of COVID-19, you would be mistaken. The coronavirus death rate is just shy
623 of 100,000 dead American citizens (unintelligible). No one is advocating, telling anyone
624 what to do and are stripping privileges away. Privileged people never experience the type
625 of authoritarianism and COVID-19 is no comparison. This is about solving the devastating
626 coronavirus pandemic locally and not having Riviera Beach added to the Palm Beach
627 County hot-spot list. All epidemiologist scientists warn the best way to lower
628 unpredictable coronavirus pandemic curve and protect everyone is to stay home or wear
629 our mask in public." Next public comment comes from Kimberly Jackson: "Good morning
630 Chair, Mayor and council members."

631 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I -- I -- I'm not hearing you, Madam Clerk. Is anybody
632 else hearing the clerk?

633 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** You're mute -- you're muted, Miss Anthony. You
634 need to unmute your computer.

635 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** Okay. All right. This public comments comes --
636 comment comes from Kimberly Jackson: "Good morning, Chair, Mayor and council
637 members. I, too, was against the opening of the beach until I heard the City's plan to
638 ensure safety distancing. It seems pointless not to open the beach, especially since
639 surrounding beaches have opened up. However, I continue to have concerns of other
640 resources the City will have to expend managing the beach. My input would be to allow
641 the County's lead in restrictions. We will not be able to fund the management of social

642 distancing and policing the beach for a long period of time. You may want to consider
643 implementing the plan during holidays and weekends, not every day for an indefinite
644 period of time. At the end of the day we need to be responsible for our actions. If you
645 determine that these scores are not abiding by the rules set forth, shut the beach down.
646 Also, there seems to be a lot of confusion surrounding the notion that there are private
647 beaches in Riviera Beach. This needs to be researched and explained to the citizens.
648 Did we sell our public beaches to private entities? If we did please provide an explanation
649 on how that transaction happened."

650 The next public comment comes from John Thompson: "I have previously sent in
651 a comment about how bad it is to keep the beaches closed. Please feel free to read my
652 comment." The next comment comes from Diana Albanese [phonetic]: "Please open the
653 beaches with no unlimited restrictions. Riviera Beach is a wide beach, and I want the
654 ability to walk and sit in the chairs. I can't think of a safer situation you can provide for
655 your residents than this. I heard the letter last week the beach services is doing and I
656 think it's excellent. Please open the beach -- please open. The beach is a wide open
657 space and according to the CDC, the virus does not live in heat or humidity. Why is this
658 simple yet effective fact overlooked? All the hoopla of Jacksonville opening and all of the
659 negative media shaming it, their numbers are fine. There is no uptick in cases. Please
660 open with no restrictions."

661 The next comment comes from Will Robinson: "Good morning. I wanted to make
662 my voice heard as a resident of Singer Island. It is common sense to reopen the beaches
663 at this point in time, and keeping them closed is just serving to piss people off. If people
664 want to stay home, then they can stay home. But it is not the place of government at any
665 level to mandate the closure of public property for public good. You can vote to keep the
666 beach closed, but I will exercise my democratic right by finding each member who voted
667 against reopening and making sure they are not elected the next time around. You are
668 supposed to represent us. Open the beach as soon as possible." The next comment
669 comes from Pamela --

670 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** You're -- you're -- could you unmute again, Madam
671 Clerk? Please unmute. Thank you.

672 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** Okay. I don't know what's happening there. Sorry
673 about that. The next public comment comes from Pamela Calabrese: "Keeping the
674 beach closed is not based on scientific -- science or health. It is about control. You are
675 not our babysitters and we are not five-year-olds. You have been voted into office to
676 represent us, not the other way around. You are there to serve. We are not here to serve
677 you. We the people voted you in and we can vote you out." The next one, she's got
678 another one, Diana Albanese: "Please read my --"

679 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** No. We're just reading -- we're just reading one
680 comment.

681 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** Okay. The next comment comes from Kelly
682 Davington [phonetic]: "I, 100 percent, want the beaches to open with no restrictions,

683 please." The next one is from Dorina Lanza, and it says, "Yes, open the beach." The
684 next one comes from Constance Rappaport: "Hi. Just casting a vote to open condo
685 beaches, please." The next one comes from Hilary Ward: "Dear Council, I am rescinding
686 this e-mail."

687 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** We've heard from her already. We've already heard
688 from her.

689 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Yeah. You can move -- you can move on. Thank you,
690 Mr. McCoy.

691 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** The next one is from Madeleine Irving: "Good
692 morning, everyone. We're here again asking the board to rethink your decision of keeping
693 the main municipal beach closed. I can't agree with the prior decisions of the board
694 regarding the closing of the public and private beaches. If the other surrounding beaches
695 had remained closed, then that would be accepted. Unfortunately, this is not the case. If
696 a plan was proposed, then why wouldn't we trust the proposed plan and hear the
697 residents? Safety precautions have been proposed, and the city manager and staff
698 worked to ensure that when our residents leave their homes to visit the beach, the City
699 thought of them. Please don't be like the prior board and disregard the residents' decision
700 to want their beach open." The next one -- that was a repeat. And this one is from Sylvia,
701 "Please reopen Riviera Beach -- please open Riviera Beach public and private with no
702 restrictions." And the final comment --

703 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Uh-uh.

704 **STAFF ASSISTANT HALL:** Oh, sorry about that. Okay. The next one is from
705 Lynn Robertson. She has said, "Read my name and, yes, open the beaches." Claire
706 Brenowitz said, "I respectfully request that you reopen our beaches, and maybe a good
707 idea to limit the hours that they are open or if you think it's wise to limit the available public
708 parking. My personal experience has been that even when Riviera Beach's parking lot is
709 full to capacity, the beach has plenty of room to social distance. Our police force patrols
710 the beaches on their beach buggies and would be available to remind the public of the
711 rules or to notify the city councilors of any issues that may suggest the beaches should
712 be shut down again. In any event there should be a clear public vote by the councilors
713 so we residents of this city can understand each person's position clearly."

714 And the final public comment comes from Jetelsa Brown [phonetic] -- I'm sorry,
715 from Catherine Bruda [phonetic]: "My name is Catherine Bruda. This is my comment
716 card from 85, 1920 regarding the opening. I called the Mayor's Office early this morning.
717 I was surprised to not only have someone answer my call but someone to make time and
718 have a discussion and update about today's meeting. She was very patient and thorough.
719 As a citizen of Riviera Beach for 30 years, my mother for 40 years paid lots of taxes and
720 put up with a lot. We championed the city police, fire rescue and commissioners. We
721 ask that you please keep the beaches closed until after Memorial Day. Our lifeguards
722 are overwhelmed. Our first responders are are overwhelmed. Our police are
723 overwhelmed. Our sheriffs are overwhelmed. Please keep beaches closed until after

724 Memorial Day as the town of Palm Beach is. We are not ready. Traffic. Parking. Please
725 keep beaches closed until after Memorial Day like the town of Palm Beach, Miami-Dade,
726 and get a plan together for phasing in parking, social distancing, etc. Do you have staff
727 to wipe down and sanitize playgrounds on the beach, bathrooms, showers? Are parking
728 spaces six feet paced? We are not ready to open." That concludes public comment,
729 Madam Chair.

730 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you, Madam Clerk. Mr. Lawson, did you have a
731 comment?

732 **ITEMS TABLED REGULAR**

733
734 **DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

735 **1. OPEN UP OUR BEACHES**

736 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Evans, do we have
737 a date yet when Broward and Dade will be reopening their beaches?

738 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** We do not have a date when Broward and Dade will
739 be reopening their beaches. From the information that we've heard through
740 administrative circles as far as city managers and county administrators, they're possibly
741 looking for reopening after Memorial Day weekend.

742 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay. So I'll continue with the quick comments,
743 then. Did -- Mr. Evans, did you schedule any meetings with anyone from the public
744 discussing reopening the beaches, and if so, were there any notes from these meetings?

745 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Anyone from the public? No, there was no discussions
746 with anyone from the public. There was discussions with my peers as I was selected to
747 serve on the beach committee with colleagues throughout the county.

748 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay. And you did advise us on the meeting of
749 those colleagues from the county to discuss the status of that. Did you guys take notes
750 from those meetings, as well? Did you take notes?

751 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** I believe -- I -- I believe some meeting minutes were
752 collected by the County. But I don't think it was any action-oriented items. It was just
753 what some of the options may be.

754 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay. And at the previous council meeting,
755 Councilwoman Botel stated she actually went to the County meeting two Fridays ago and
756 stated that the city manager sent her. Is this true?

757 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** The city manager --

758 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** I -- I --

759 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** -- told me about the meeting.

760 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Madam Chair. I'd like for Mr.
761 Evans to answer.

762 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Sure.

763 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Thank you.

764 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** I -- I provided the information that the County was
765 having a meeting to Councilperson Botel. And obviously in light of all the comments and
766 e-mails that we've been receiving as a result of the beach, I said it would be a good
767 opportunity for her to at least watch the meeting at minimum.

768 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay. So I guess just from the -- just reviewing the
769 meeting, Councilwoman Botel stated that she was sent by the city manager. So I just
770 want to know if you had given her direction or a stance to take on behalf of the city when
771 you sent her to the meeting.

772 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** No, sir.

773 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay. So Madam Chair, when you went to the
774 actual meeting on behalf of the city, your statements were --

775 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I think I -- excuse me, Mr. Lawson. I did not go on
776 behalf of the city.

777 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay. But your title that you gave was the chair of
778 the city council and that you had been sent by the city manager.

779 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I made it clear when asked by --

780 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Uh-huh.

781 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** -- Commissioner Weiss that I was not representing the
782 city.

783 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** But in regards to your title, Madam Chair, if you're
784 not representing the city, you were there as Julia Botel from the Tiara Building, not as the
785 chair of the city council and not sent by the city manager, Madam Chair.

786 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Mr. Lawson, do you have a comment about the beach
787 openings?

788 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** I'm make -- I'm -- I'm currently making them, Madam
789 Chair, 'cause you made comments to our county commission in regards to your concerns
790 of reopening the beach as the chair of the city council without a vote being taken nor a
791 discussion by your colleagues, Madam Chair.

792 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** I made it very clear that no vote --

793 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Yes, Madam Chair.

794 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** -- I was asked if a vote had been taken, and I made it
795 very clear that no vote had been taken.

796 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Oh, yeah. Absolutely. That was as requested by
797 the mayor of the county asking if a vote had been taken. But when you went your
798 comments were that you were representing the council so that's why I ask--

799 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** No, no. I don't -- Mr. Lawson, excuse me. I never
800 portrayed myself as representing the city.

801 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Okay. So my question was for Mr. Evans, as our
802 city manager, so that we can understand, because I want to make sure that all discussions
803 are had as a council so we can come to solutions together. Whether we're in agreement
804 or disagreement with reopening these beaches, I want to make sure that all discussions
805 are had together as a council, 'cause the preceding Wednesday we had a meeting and
806 that discussion never came up. Yet from your statements at the county meeting, you
807 stated that Mr. Evans sent you to the meeting. So if you misspoke, I understand. But
808 that's why I want to have some clarity before we proceed.

809 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Are you done?

810 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** No, Madam Chair, I'm not.

811 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Go ahead, then.

812 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** I want to make sure that I have it on the record that
813 I am not in favor of reopening the beaches. I believe that as of right now that we should
814 not be opening the beaches prior to this holiday coming this weekend. Because visitors
815 will be traveling from all over the state to come to our beaches here in Riviera Beach.
816 This is going to put a strain on our staff. This is going to put a strain on our residents,
817 and it's going to be a detriment to our community if we continue to push forward without
818 restrictive measures in place.

819 I understand that there's certain things that Mr. Evans and his staff has put
820 together. But there is going to be an onslaught on our beaches over the next few weeks.
821 And if we don't fall in line with some of the other surrounding counties that are not opening
822 their beaches, I think we're going to have major issues here in this community, which is
823 going to be a complete strain on this community. So I am completely not in favor of
824 actually having these beaches reopened prior to this holiday. I would not mind my
825 colleagues supporting a plan to reopening them after the holiday or to put in some
826 additional restrictive measures to restrict the attendance of our beaches. I believe that in
827 Boca they've actually restricted the -- the parking. The only concern I had with that is the
828 shopping in our Ocean Mall. I would not want to restrict the parking and then restrict the

829 business that's actually going to these businesses. So I want us to have an additional
830 plan, additional conversations prior to rushing to opening this meeting. We did have a
831 meeting on Friday and discussed we had a no vote. There was no motion made. There
832 was no discussion. So our mayor did actually ask to have a special meeting this morning
833 where I would have actually liked the full complement of the council to be here and had
834 this meeting tomorrow at the Wednesday meeting. But I'm here to discuss this
835 conversation so those are all my comments, Miss Botel.

836 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you.

837 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Madam Chair. I'm sorry.

838 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Councilwoman Lanier or McCoy, do you
839 have any further comments before we call the question? Mr. McCoy?

840 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. So Mr. Evans, and you
841 know, I've been asked to watch the Friday meeting and I've been just that busy I haven't
842 had a chance to. Has there been a discussion on how we arrived at the beach closure?
843 I mean, for the purpose of the public. Because I think we know as members.

844 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** I don't recall there being any specificity with regards to
845 the beach closures as part of the conversation on Friday.

846 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Okay. So was this an item that was brought up to
847 city council for us to make the decision to close the beaches?

848 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** No, sir. This was under the executive order that was
849 articulated by Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 2070 that effectively closed the
850 beaches. City staff then followed the county's order to effectuate that on the local level.
851 So it was a directive from the governor's office, and then we came into compliance with
852 what the county was doing and other municipalities.

853 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** So if we came into compliance with what the county
854 was doing, then why is it an issue that we have to vote on it? Is there a local order that
855 was done by the manager?

856 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** The city council specifically asked for a special meeting
857 to discuss the elements as it relates to the possibility of reopening the beaches. So when
858 the city council asked for the meeting to be held and then the city council -- there was not
859 a motion that was proffered to reopen the beaches. And it was abundantly clear in the
860 Friday meeting that it was the board's desire not to reopen the beaches and discuss that
861 in a subsequent conversation. City staff complied with the desires of the board, the
862 majority of the board.

863 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Follow-up: Abundantly clear?

864 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** Yes, sir.

865 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** But there was no vote?

866 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** There was no vote 'cause there was a motion that was
867 requested to reopen the beaches. The motion was not offered so the beaches were to
868 remain closed. And all the elected members on the board stated their position on the
869 matter, which is memorialized in the public record.

870 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Okay. And based on that, so had there not been a
871 vote or had there been a split decision, and I think it was four members there -- had it
872 been, you know, you got two that were in favor or two that was against it, where would
873 that leave you, Mr. Evans, if the decision had to be made?

874 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** The item would have failed and the beaches still would
875 have remained closed.

876 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Well, not necessarily voted. But I mean, if you had
877 two members that actually expressed some concerns and two members that thought we
878 should be opening, where does that leave you as far as the ability to move forward absent
879 of a vote?

880 **CITY MANAGER EVANS:** The same thing. The beaches still would remain
881 closed 'cause it's not the desire of a majority of the board.

882 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Okay. So -- okay. All right. Good enough. So I --

883 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you, Mr. --

884 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** -- I just want to make sure that I remind members,
885 last week Monday on the 11th, I requested a special city council meeting for the 13th, which
886 was Wednesday. And now as you know, I had four items on there pending the pay policy,
887 the PBA collective bargaining agreement, the local state of emergency and the last item
888 was phase one, city of Riviera Beach reopening plan. And unfortunately three of the
889 members of the city council didn't vote to support hearing that item being discussed.

890 So you know, I think this is something that we very well could have gotten ahead
891 of because it's not just about the beaches. We have other operations that are pretty much
892 closed down. And you know, even when we did meet in Councilperson Lawson's
893 meeting, that special meeting on the 13th, I said specifically I would like to see that we just
894 allow the manager to have that authority as opposed to coming back for a meeting, even
895 though I voted for the meeting. It just seems like, you know, that's a decision that could
896 have been easily taken care of by the manager.

897 So I conclude with this: I -- I -- I support opening the beach simply because I don't
898 want to micromanage anybody, especially those individuals that have private property,
899 and we know how important that is for all of us, that it is adjacent to the beach and they
900 want to be able to access -- access it. And two, I want to see if we can have the
901 conversation on perhaps during your comments on tomorrow regarding the plan for -- and

902 I think Council -- Chair Botel might have been involved in the conversation -- the Ocean
903 Mall and the -- the accommodation for those restaurants.

904 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Yes.

905 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Because if we're going to be open, you know, I think
906 at the very least we need to work with the management team and figure out --

907 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Yes.

908 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** -- a way to kind of make sure that we're
909 accommodating. But, you know, obviously I don't want to live in fear and I'm very
910 conscientious. But I don't want to, you know, hold anybody to any further restrictions. I
911 think we've all been impacted by this. And, you know, my initial thoughts on it was we --
912 perhaps we're not ready. But I wanted to at least start the conversation. It would have
913 been nice to have it last week as opposed to after the fact. But nonetheless, we're here
914 now, and I -- I'm going to support reopening it so that we can move on from this item . So
915 thank you, Madam Chair.

916 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you, Mr. McCoy. Miss Lanier, if you have nothing
917 else, we will -- 'cause I know you're in a rush. I will make a very brief comment. I
918 appreciate what the mayor said at the beginning of this meeting. It was eloquent and very
919 well said. I respect the opinions of my colleagues with whom I disagree on this matter. I
920 have the highest respect for KaShamba Miller-Anderson, her intelligence, her caring for
921 this community, and I understand that this community is highly vulnerable to this disease.
922 And we would never want to put anyone in danger, which is why I agree with the mayor.
923 Please don't go to the beach. If you are a vulnerable person -- I'm 72 years old with an
924 underlying heart condition. I'm not going to go lay out there on the beach, and I encourage
925 you not to lay out on the beach if you're in that vulnerable population.

926 I am heartsick at how this issue has divided our community. People on the island
927 against people on the mainland, it feels like two years ago when I ran and everybody was
928 trying to secede from Riviera Beach. That has reared its ugly head again. We can't let
929 that happen. We have to be united on this. And so I'm hoping that we can have a vote
930 to open the beaches. I -- I -- I won't say too much 'cause I know -- I know Miss Lanier
931 has to go. So if we could call the question -- we don't have to actually call the question.
932 Madam Clerk, could you -- we've had a motion and a second, Madam Clerk, if you could
933 call the roll.

934 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** Councilperson McCoy?

935 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Yes.

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

937 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** Yes.

938 CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Pro Tem Lawson?

939 CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON: No.

940 CITY CLERK ANTHONY: Chair Botel?

941 CHAIRPERSON BOTEL: Yes.

942 CITY CLERK ANTHONY: That motion is approved with Councilperson Lawson
943 dissenting.

944 CHAIRPERSON BOTEL: Thank you. Mr. Evans, did you have any comments to
945 make about the process now?

946 **DISCUSSION BY CITY MANAGER**

947 CITY MANAGER EVANS: Yes, Madam Chair and members of the board. Staff
948 will begin moving -- removing the barricades on the island, and we should have the beach
949 open by 12:30 today.

950 CHAIRPERSON BOTEL: Thank you. I -- I think I can hear a roar coming from
951 the crowd out there. Oh, no. That's the ocean. I -- I sincerely thank you for having this
952 meeting. I know, Mr. McCoy, we could have dealt with this sooner. And I appreciate that.
953 And by the way, I have told people absolutely without question that you were not available
954 on Friday because of your unfortunate loss of a family member.

955 And I want to reiterate to Councilwoman Miller-Anderson that really there was
956 nothing underhanded about this. I think the mayor's concern was to try to get this beach
957 open as quickly as possible today so it certainly wasn't meant to be underhanded. And I
958 apologize if that gave the appearance of that. Do we have any comments by the city
959 attorney -- that was the city manager's comments. Anything else, Mr. Evans?

960 CITY MANAGER EVANS: (No audible response).

961 CHAIRPERSON BOTEL: Thank you. Comments by city attorney?

962 **DISCUSSION BY CITY ATTORNEY**

963 CITY ATTORNEY WYNN: No, thank you.

964 CHAIRPERSON BOTEL: Thank you. Council committee reports? Statements
965 by the mayor and city council starting with the mayor?

966 **CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

967 **STATEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

968 MAYOR FELDER: No statements.

969 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Mr. McCoy?

970 **COUNCILPERSON McCOY:** Thank you. I'm going to be brief. Thank you,
971 Madam Chair, for reminding me that I was dealing with the funeral. I wanted to say
972 something about it, and I actually didn't have the intention to say something about it. But
973 some of these e-mails were quite alarming, and there was some very disparaging things
974 in there that I didn't show up because I didn't want to take a vote on the item and I was a
975 coward and those kind of things.

976 And, you know, I certainly respect people's opinion and whatever they want to say,
977 but I think the disparagement doesn't have to be included in your e-mail in order to make
978 a point, you know? And let me tell you, I think I've had the David and Goliath fight for an
979 election. So I'm certainly not threatened by anybody saying that they'll raise a million
980 bucks for my opponents or that I, you know -- I'm here for public service. And when my
981 season's done I go home. You know, I go back to what I was doing. So, you know, I
982 respect the -- the diplomacy that we can have without the -- you know, the unnecessary
983 jargon and insults. So -- but, you know, it is what it is, and I appreciate you participating,
984 but I will hope that we can kind of do it a little bit more fine-tuned as opposed to name-
985 calling. So thank you. That's all I had, Madam Chair.

986 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Miss Lanier? Councilwoman Lanier, any
987 comments?

988 **COUNCILPERSON LANIER:** I just wanted to say that, you know, I was in support
989 of this before, but I also want to ensure that we do have this public health component
990 attached to this beach opening. This is one of the main reasons why I was very adamant
991 about making sure that if we're going to do this, that it is done with the utmost caution for
992 public health in terms of people coming to the beach, social distancing and, you know,
993 the whole works on how we have to make sure that people -- I mean, we know that there's
994 going to be, you know, some issues in terms of there may be cases, there may not. But
995 who knows. But we do need to make sure that there is going to be an abundance of
996 caution and also there's going to be a public health component to this reopening.

997 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Councilman Lawson?

998 **CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just my comments are
999 that I was -- I was fairly disappointed. I -- I -- I truly believe that I had the best interests in
1000 my -- all of our residents, and I know our residents believe that they want their voices to
1001 be heard and we've heard all their voices.

1002 And we as a council, we can have amicable discussions. We can have
1003 disagreements. We can have this dialogue where we may not agree on certain topics
1004 and that is okay. That's why the five of us were elected, including our mayor, as well.
1005 And if we decide to move forward, we will all be in support of these decisions to make
1006 sure that it's done in the best interest of the entire community. I'm in all support of Mr.
1007 Evans and the staff to do an amazing job. I am very cautious to the -- the health and
1008 wellness of our community. I know Mr. Evans will do the best he can to protect the

1009 residents of our city.

1010 And moving forward, I just want us to continue to push forward. Councilwoman
1011 Botel, I've seen some of your comments that you've been making to residents in support
1012 of your colleagues on this dais, and you understanding that we can agree to disagree, we
1013 can move forward with amicable solutions and make sure that we work together.

1014 So the only announcement I want to make is that we're currently having a free
1015 produce giveaway over at Wells. It'll be running until 12:00 so residents, if you have a
1016 chance to go over to Wells, we're going to be doing free produce for our residents today.
1017 Today and also Friday. So thank you so much.

1018 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you, Mr. Lawson. I just want to remind viewers
1019 that we will be having our regularly scheduled meeting tomorrow. In fact, we have a
1020 special CRA meeting prior to tomorrow night's meeting at 5. Am I correct about that,
1021 Madam Clerk? 5:00 tomorrow, CRA?

1022 **CITY CLERK ANTHONY:** (No audible response).

1023 **CHAIRPERSON BOTEL:** Thank you. Thank you. And I want to remind people,
1024 I -- I have asked to continue these -- the feeding program that we've been running out of
1025 Valley of Love Ministries. I haven't gotten a response back yet from FLIPANY which is
1026 the organization that provides us with the food. So if I do get a positive response and we
1027 can continue the feeding program through the summer months, I would urge you to
1028 contact your school principal and ask that your child's name be included if you cannot --
1029 if you do not have transportation to the regular feeding sites. If you've got transportation,
1030 then please, by all means, go to Lincoln, go to Suncoast. But if you don't have
1031 transportation then use the -- the Valley of Love and your principal. I think that's it. If
1032 nothing else, then we will adjourn this meeting. Thank you.

1033 **ADJOURNMENT**

1034 (CONCLUSION OF MEETING)

1035 Transcribed by: slw/slw/ms

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1037 **APPROVED:**

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1042 **RONNIE L. FELDER**
1043 **MAYOR**

JULIA A. BOTEL, Ed.D
CHAIRPERSON

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1045 **ATTEST:**

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1050 **CLAUDENE L. ANTHONY**
1051 **CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK**
1052 **CITY CLERK**

DOUGLAS A. LAWSON
CHAIR PRO TEM

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TRADRICK MCCOY
COUNCILPERSON

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KASHAMBA MILLER-ANDERSON
COUNCILPERSON

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SHIRLEY D. LANIER
COUNCILPERSON

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1068 **MOTIONED BY:** _____

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1070 **SECONDED BY:** _____

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1072 **T. MCCOY** _____

1073 **K. MILLER-ANDERSON** _____

1074 **S. LANIER** _____

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1076 **J. BOTEL** _____

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1078 **D. LAWSON** _____

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1080 **DATE APPROVED:** AUGUST 5, 2020