

July 1, 2011

Dear Property Owner:

It has come to the City's attention that the presence of abandoned tents on the beach has reached a threshold that presents significant sanitation and safety concerns for visitors on the sandy Gulf Beach. In the very early morning hours, the tents abandoned at sunset the previous day block the City's trash contractor from traversing the beach to empty the blue cans located on your property. During the day, the unoccupied and clearly abandoned tents present physical and visual obstacles not only for new visitors looking for a spot to enjoy a day at the beach, but also for the Beach and Safety Patrol who seek to effectively and efficiently monitor and respond to beach safety issues occurring on the sandy beach and in the Gulf waters. And during the night, sea turtles are competing with the tents for real estate in which to lay their nests. All said, the accumulation of stuff on the beach is adversely affecting the beach's aesthetic beauty, which will ultimately affect tourism and the collective economic interests that rely upon it. We need your help.

Effective immediately, we are directing the trash service to collect and dispose of orphaned tents, which are so disheveled that they have more likely than not been abandoned, including but not limited to tent skeletons (frames with no canopy)—that impede their travel along on the beach when they conduct their daily sunrise runs. **Please advise your residents and guests of the City's action and intention**, so they will not be surprised should their tent disappear. We do not want to ruin anyone's vacation, but neither do we appreciate these souvenirs they are leaving behind *en masse*.

We also request you encourage your residents and guests to bring their tents and personal belongings up to the dune line, or where there is no dune line, as close as practicable to an existing structure or line of buildings, at the end of the day. This will not only indicate to the trash contractor that those items are not abandoned and therefore not within the scope of items for him to pick up, it will allow for more effective trash pickup, and a cleaner beach for both guests and turtles to enjoy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and your cooperation in keeping this one of the world's most beautiful beaches. Feel free to contact Mr. James Tindle at 233-5100 ext. 2317 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Jackson
City Manager
City of Panama City Beach