

Seabrook Police Department



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Brett J. Walker
Chief of Police

Kevin M. Gelineau
Deputy Chief of Police

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Manager
FROM: Chief of Police
DATE: May 28, 2020
RE: Deployment of personnel related to the closing of Ocean Blvd. in Hampton

With Governor Sununu's announcement on Friday 22 May 2020 that a portion of Ocean Blvd/Rte 1-A along the front side of the strip in Hampton Beach will be closed through Labor Day the Seabrook PD expects traffic issues in the beach area above and beyond what is normal for us throughout the summer. We expect to see traffic volumessimilar to the Fourth of July, Seafood Fest, and Hampton fireworks any day where the weather is decent. The difference is that the three events listed are independent of each other and have a relatively short duration typically lasting between a few hours and a few days. As a result of the modified traffic pattern and closing of Ocean Boulevard, we expect to see these issues in conjunction with any nice weather for the next three months.

The anticipated issues associated with added vehicular traffic will be addressed by increased and sustained enforcement by uniformed Seabrook Police Officers as well as civilian parking enforcement agents under the direction of the Seabrook Police Department during what we believe will be peak times. Parking violations aside, we often receive complaints of road rage, vehicles doing "burnouts", revving engines, passing traffic in unauthorized lanes, and speeding along side streets as vehicle operators and occupants grow frustrated while sitting in gridlock traffic on a beautiful day. This personnel will be assigned to the beach area specifically to address those traffic and parking violations.

In order to achieve the Town's goal of "resident-only" traffic on Seabrook Beach, the Police Department recommends a seasonal increase of parking fines in the beach area as well as establishing a practice of towing vehicles illegally parked in permit-only spaces. Currently it is a \$50.00 fine for parking in a "no parking area" or where labeled "permit parking only". The Board has previously suggested a fine of \$200.00 for parking violations. I would recommend

conversation between Seabrook and the other seacoast municipalities who are considering similar changes as it would be ideal to have a somewhat uniform approach to this enforcement up and down the Seacoast.

One ordinance that may need to be addressed by the Board is Chapter P470, Towing Services. Pat's Towing on Route 107 is currently the only business that meets the criteria established under P470-4, Towing Services, of this chapter for tows by the Police Department. If the Board chooses to enact a policy to tow vehicles illegally parked in "permit only" spaces the potential exists for Pat's to become overwhelmed and not be able to accommodate Police Department requests.

We are also aware of the piping plover nests on the beach at this time of year. Except in emergency situations, we do not deploy wheeled vehicles on the beach until the plovers have left their nests for the season. This adds to the difficulty in addressing some common complaints on the beach.

Attached is a list of proposed fine increases as well as subsequent offenses. The existing fine is in blue/bold but does not include the 24% penalty assessment as authorized by statute. There are also new fines proposed in order to address other chronic issues in town.

As the State continues opening up amidst COVID-19/coronavirus precautions, our staff is committed to remaining healthy and continuing to provide the residents and visitors to this community with excellent police services. While we have encountered violations of the Governor's orders not to go on the beaches we have found that the overwhelming majority of the public has responded favorably to the officers' educational approach to the subject. We thank the public for their cooperation and compliance over the past several months.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Walker", with the number "200" written to the right of the signature.

Brett J. Walker, Chief of Police

