



Town of Fort Myers Beach

Dennis Boback
Mayor

Tracey Gore
Vice Mayor

Anita Cereceda
Council Member

Joanne Shamp
Council Member

Bruce Butcher
Council Member

September 27, 2017

The Honorable Matt Caldwell, Chairman
Lee County Legislative Delegation
15191 Homestead Road, Building A
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Re: Lee County Legislative Delegation Meeting and Public Hearing

Dear Representative Caldwell:

The upcoming 2018 legislative session finds the Town of Fort Myers Beach working diligently toward a goal of providing our residents, businesses and visitors the very best, small town beach community that is beautiful, enjoyable and unique. Our Town Council recently completed three Strategic Planning Sessions and is committed to protect and enhance our own community and its vibrant quality of life. Previously, the Town has had a minimal presence in Tallahassee. This year we intend to be active and we will seek your assistance to obtain the benefits of partnering with the State that many of our sister cities and towns have successfully pursued to improve the quality of life for our shared taxpayers by advancing certain initiatives to the State. This year, the Town will request State support to advancing our infrastructure and specifically, our water quality projects to protect nearshore waters and beaches that are the backbone of our Southwest Florida economy and property values. The Town also proposes to request continued support of local rule and new, flexible, non-property tax supported means to help fund the impacts of being a popular tourist destination among other initiatives on the attached list. Please accept this letter to confirm our request for placement on the meeting agenda for myself and Town Manager Roger T. Hernstadt to speak at the Lee County Legislative Delegation meeting set for October 18, 2017. Please find attached the 2018 Town of Fort Myers Beach legislative agenda (priorities) which were considered by Town Council and approved for presentation to the delegation.

Lastly, I want to advise you that the Town of Fort Myers Beach is in the process of hiring a lobbyist that specializes in State affairs to assist us with our legislative priorities. I will notify the delegation of the name of the firm, etc. when Town Council makes its selection.

We appreciate your continued public service, representation of Southwest Florida and efforts on behalf of the Town and its taxpayers. If you have any questions regarding the Town's legislative priorities, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dennis C. Boback
Mayor

cc: Lee County Legislative Delegation
Town of Fort Myers Beach Council
Roger T. Hernstadt, Town Manager
Scott Dudley, League of Cities Legislative Director.

2018 Town of Fort Myers Beach Legislative Priorities

Support efforts of the Florida League of Cities and work collaboratively with them to:

- a. Empower local decision-making by municipalities.
- b. Extend to qualifying tourism-based municipalities the authority to implement either a bed tax or local option infrastructure surtax, not to exceed 1 cent, without the consent of the County. Many small municipalities serve as the tourism-based economic engine for their county and state. Municipal property owners are bearing the cost of local services and infrastructure necessary to support tourism. The local option for a bed or infrastructure surtax would assist in mitigating the burden placed upon the 7,000 local property taxpayers. In season, the seasonal residency grows to more than 45,000; a sevenfold increase on the demand for public services and wear and tear on our infrastructure, without a fair mechanism to recover these costs to local taxpayers.

Continue to support water related grant funding to municipalities for upgrading their infrastructure to improve and protect their nearshore water quality to continue attracting visitors to their municipality. The Town of Fort Myers Beach is responsible for the maintenance of 132 acres of right-of-way, and the total Town right-of-way runoff area, which is drainage basin area, is approximately 409 acres. The current infrastructure is inadequate for 275 of those acres. Approximately 10 acres have no infrastructure. Some 200 acres contain just minimal infrastructure (along 25% or less of the roadways). 65 acres contain a “moderate” amount of infrastructure (along 25-75% of the roadways). The performance of the Town’s stormwater management system is also negatively impacted by tidal behavior of the surrounding bodies of water. The Town’s major stormwater issues are:

- The need to provide adequate flood protection, while achieving a level of service (LOS) to meet a 10-year 72-hour storm event.
- A lack of conveyance infrastructure.
- The need to improve water quality.
- The \$26 million being borrowed by the 3,198 utility ratepayers of the Town for stormwater projects is still not adequate to address the total need.