



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR BILL GALVANO
President

June 11, 2020

The Honorable Judy Titsworth
City of Holmes Beach
5801 Marina Drive
Holmes Beach, FL 34217
Set via email to jtitsworth@holmesbeachfl.org

Dear Mayor Titsworth,

Representative Robinson and I are writing today to share our growing concern with myriad impacts of locally-imposed restrictions on public parking in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has come to our attention that on-street parking has recently been reduced by at least 45 percent, impacting the ability of residents and visitors to patronize local businesses and participate in recreational activities on our beaches.

As you know, tourism is vital to our coastal economy. Our shops and restaurants sat vacant for weeks this spring as owners sacrificed the well-being of their businesses to join statewide efforts to combat the spread of the coronavirus. As communities across Manatee County re-open, visitors and local patrons alike are eager to return to their usual activities and enjoy the quality of life that sets Southwest Florida apart.

Florida's Legislature has invested significant taxpayer dollars to support the long-term health of our local beaches, yet local government is now eliminating parking, effectively restricting public access to public beaches. While social distancing, and other precautions, are a responsible and important part of safely re-opening our state, our constituents are outraged that such measures are now being used as an excuse to impose long-sought restrictions on public parking.

State economists inform us that while international tourism is unlikely to recover this summer, a portion of that commerce is likely to be replaced by Floridians choosing an in-state vacation this year. Our coastal communities should plan accordingly and seize this opportunity to showcase the beauty of Florida's Southwest Gulf Coast.

We respectfully request that you re-evaluate plans to reduce on-street parking.

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Respectfully,



Bill Galvano



Will Robinson

cc: Mayor Dan Murphy
Mayor John Chappie