

May 24, 2023

Subject: Memorial Day Weekend and Floatopia

Dear Civic League Officials and Chesapeake Beach area residents,

City officials were made aware of a social media event page for Floatopia: Memorial Day Weekend 2023. VBPD has requested that the poster (organizer) contact them with respect to permit requirements. The City cannot control private event pages created on social media sites; however, City public safety departments and Public Works are committed to supporting the neighborhoods and beaches for our residents and visitors alike and ensure that everyone has fun and safe experience.

Several local civic league leaders and area residents have reached out with questions about how this unpermitted event will be handled. So that all interested groups and individuals are on the same page, we are providing this document to help answer those questions and hopefully alleviate any concerns you may have.

- **Is the City ready for this event?**

In short, yes. The Memorial Day weekend is going to be busy, with crowds flocking to our city to enjoy everything that Virginia Beach has to offer. The City has plans in place to address traffic, public safety needs, beach cleanliness, waste collection, and restroom facilities for residents and visitors this weekend.

- **What is the plan to address trash this weekend?**

Public Works will place additional trash barrels at beach access points throughout the Chesapeake Beach neighborhood. Additionally, two dumpsters will be placed at Crab Creek Marina for City staff to dispose of trash. The beach access trash barrels will be emptied each morning. In total, there will be about 200 trash barrels staged along Ocean Park Beach and the Chic's Beach area.

- **What about trash on the beach itself?**

The City is hopeful that participants will use the available trash barrels to dispose of any waste. Should that not be the case, crews will remove trash from the beach if it becomes necessary.

- **Will there be restroom facilities available?**

Yes. Portable restrooms will be placed along Ocean Park and Chesapeake Bay beaches at the following beach access points: E. Stratford Road, Dinwiddie Road, Albermarle Avenue and Rookery Way. The units should be in place by Friday, May 26 and removed on Tuesday, May 30. Cleaning and servicing will occur in between those days.

- **Will there be signage directing visitors to stay away from portions of the beach that are being replenished?**
Yes, the contractor performing sand replenishment operations will have signs posted at areas of the beach that are closed that inform beachgoers to avoid any affected areas.
- **What can be done about illegally parked vehicles?**
If you believe a vehicle is illegally parked on public property, please call the non-emergency line at (757) 385-3111. VBPD will investigate and determine if a vehicle is illegally parked and take appropriate action to address it. If a vehicle is parked on an individual's or business's private property, you can request a towing company come and remove said vehicle.
- **This event is unpermitted, so why is the City letting it happen?**
All of our beaches are public property. We can't stop people from coming to the beach, but we do have laws and ordinances in place to address any behavior that presents a risk to other individuals or private property. VBPD can and will enforce those rules if needed, however voluntary compliance with the rules is always our first approach. If and when it becomes necessary to cite or arrest violators, police will take any appropriate action.
- **What should I do if I see something happening that I think needs to be addressed?**
If it is a true life-or-death emergency, please call 9-1-1. For all other non-emergency issues, please call the non-emergency phone number at (757) 385-3111. In either case, please be ready to provide as much information about any incident, including where it is taking place, any identifying details if it involves individuals or a vehicle.

The City wants everyone to have a good time, and we will work to quickly address any issues that may arise as a result of the crowds we expect to see this weekend. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to Community Affairs Liaison Jonathan Torres (jtortes@vbgov.com) or me (nbloom@vbgov.com).

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Bloom

Community Engagement Strategist

c: Councilmember Joashua F. "Joash" Schulman, District 9
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