

MEMORANDUM 07-131

DATE: August 2, 2007
TO: Walt Wrede, City Manager
FROM: Mark Robl, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Beach Enforcement Questions

Council member Roberts has asked me to respond to two questions regarding beach enforcement issues and have my response included in the packet for the next council meeting.

First, she has requested an approximate cost estimate for the new proposed permit system. I estimate staff time costs at about \$1,000 to develop the system. I anticipate a permit system similar to the one we use for burn permits. Reoccurring annual costs to the Police Department will be about \$2,000. My major concern with the permit system is staff time. We will endeavor to develop a system that takes a minimal amount of staff time. The majority of the duties with the permit system will have to fall on our dispatch staff. Our dispatch staff is completely maxed out with their current duties. Summer time which is prime usage time on the beaches of course is the busiest of times for our dispatchers. I am firmly against assigning them additional duties. I cannot begin to adequately describe the dispatch environment to someone that has not been in it. It is fast paced, high stress and nearly non-stop radio and phone calls during peak periods. Peak periods occur without warning and are completely unpredictable. We cannot establish a given day of the week or time of the day for people to come to our counter and get permits for anything and be assured of service. Citizens currently wait at our counter in frustration for service quite frequently. This will add to the problem. We will try to put the new permit applications on line but many people will come in to get their permits in person, especially those traveling in the area.

The second item is a question regarding how many hours a week we patrol the beaches on the all-terrain vehicle. We do not patrol the beaches at all on the ATV. We have not had the available resources in patrol to do so. While on normal patrols, our officers watch beach activities as much as possible. If they see problems or violations occurring they take the appropriate enforcement action. They also respond to complaints regarding activities on the beaches.