



Office of
**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
ATTORNEY**

Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
William K. DeBraal, Deputy County Attorney
Susan J. Prado, Assistant County Attorney

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
DATE: November 14, 2022
SUBJECT: Off Leash Beach Dog Park Update

BACKGROUND.

On October 4, 2022, Commissioner O'Bryan brought an agenda item requesting a discussion by the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners ("Board") on the idea of converting either Sea Turtle Trail or Seagrape Trail beach park into an off leash dog park. Both of these parks as noted by Commissioner O'Bryan are located within the Town of Indian River Shores. At the meeting, the Board voted 4-1 to direct staff to study the issue further and coordinate with the Town of Indian River Shores.

Since that Board meeting, County staff had an opportunity to meet with the Town Manager for the Town of Indian River Shores. The Town Manager expressed concerns with enforcement and having times for dogs being off leash within a County park that were inconsistent with the Town off leash hours of sunrise to 9 am and 5 pm to sunset.

At the Board meeting, Commissioner O'Bryan also mentioned the possibility of using Ambersands Beach Access as another location. If the Board wishes to use this park, section 302.05 of the Indian River County Ordinance Code will need to be amended to allow for dogs without a restraint on the beach within designated County parks.

The County Attorney's Office wanted to provide an update to the Board on communications with the Town of Indian River Shores and seeks guidance from the Board on how the Board would like to proceed.

RECOMMENDATION.

The County Attorney's Office recommends that the Board provide guidance on how to move forward on allowing dogs off leash at a County beach park.