From:	John Pedersen
To:	Brenda Bethune; Gregg Smith; Jackie Hatley; John Krajc; Mike Chestnut; Mike Lowder; PRender@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Cc:	AStanley@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Subject:	Emergency Meeting Wednesday at 10:00 AM
Date:	Monday, June 15, 2020 10:56:16 PM

Good evening.

We had a lengthy meeting today to discuss what we were going to do to get on top of the chaos that we had on Ocean Boulevard this weekend. We have identified some immediate steps that we are prepared to take beginning next Friday, but there are certain approvals that it will be necessary for Council to make in order for us to put these actions in place. For that reason we are calling an emergency meeting for Wednesday morning at 10:00. As you will recall, ordinances passed to address an emergency situation may be approved with one reading. We have not had a chance to nail down the location for this meeting at this point, but I anticipate that it will be held in the Courtroom unless that space is booked at that time.

At this meeting we will ask Council to declare the rest of the summer as an Extraordinary Event resulting from the combination of the pandemic, possible civil unrest resulting from the murder of George Floyd, and the conduct that we have seen from our guests since we have re-opened.

I will also ask you to consider several changes to the Code with respect to the designation of emergency events. The two primary changes will be to allow the Police Chief to temporarily close a business (with the Manager's concurrence) if it becomes necessary to do so to preserve the public safety. That closure would be of a short duration, usually only until that business is scheduled to open the next day.

The second significant change, however, is to allow the City Manager to temporarily suspend a business license for a nuisance property. This suspension would be effective until such point in time as the business develops an acceptable plan to address the issues that caused the suspension in the first place.

In addition to these measures, which require City Council's approval, we also plan to implement the additional steps indicated below.

We will push out an agenda for this meeting in the morning. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

John

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How Do We Change Ocean Boulevard?

- Immediate Actions.
  - Resources –
    - Last weekend at the peak we deployed over 80 officers to the area. Assistance was received from CCU, Sheriff's Office, Highway Patrol, & Georgetown County.
    - This week we have made arrangement for 40 State LEO's to assist.
  - Ordinance Changes – on Wednesday we will ask Council for Extraordinary Event amendments to:
    - Allow the Police Chief to close a business for a temporary period (generally until reopening the next day) for failing to comply with existing ordinances and/or executive orders.
    - Allow the Manager to suspend a business license for nuisance properties until a satisfactory plan to achieve compliance is agreed upon.
    - Make certain other changes to the Extraordinary Event ordinance.
  - State Assistance – See "Resources".
  - Technology – Search for grant funds to pay for Automated Vehicle Locations systems, and/or to allow tracking location of individual officers.
  - Nuisance enforcement - Code enforcement officers will work this weekend w/ law Enforcement to focus on noise ordinance violations.
  - Traffic Management Plans –
    - Management plan will go into effect at 9:00 PM on Friday – Sunday. Blvd will be closed b/w 16th N & 3rd S. Council should expect pushback from merchants.
    - Plan may go into effect earlier in the evening if necessary.
    - Additional flush plans as necessary to control the streets.
  - Communications –
    - To residents – use print, digital, and social media to push out this plan.
    - To businesses – direct letter to businesses in the heart of the downtown.
    - To visitors – targeted social media marketing to certain gang hotbeds.
  - Funding – for discussion in Executive Session.

- Longer-term Actions.
  - Continued implementation of Downtown Master Plan.
  - Boulevard design & CPTED measures - beginning efforts to work w/ Downtown Architect & business owners to redesign NOB b/w 16th N & 7th N (redesign to include decorative railings).
  - Golf carts/mopeds.
    - For the remainder of this season – document golf carts & moped problems.
    - Fall - begin discussion of mitigation issues w/ industry reps.
    - By year end – decide what additional steps to take to address issues.
    - Early 2021 – Council makes necessary changes to golf cart and moped rental ordinance and renews franchise agreements (or not).

photograph

The employees of the City of Myrtle Beach are a diverse group of individuals who blend their unique talents to create the most effective, elite team of public servants in South Carolina.

John Pedersen

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