



Port Antigua Property Owners' Association
P.O. Box 1049
Islamorada, FL 33036
305-664-8229

info@portantigua.net

A Deed Restricted Community

www.portantigua.net

Dear Port Antigua friends and neighbors,

Thank you to those who provided input from the September Beach Survey, emails and the BOD meetings. After looking at your responses, it was obvious that:

1. Something must be done to restore the safety and quality of life at our beach and
2. Any solution will not be easy or satisfy everyone.

The proposal outlined below is the result of the PAPOA's outreach to you, and this is your opportunity to help create a beach mitigation proposal that will be presented to the Village of Islamorada Council. We need your support to restrict the number of boats that frequent the public waters adjacent to our beautiful beach on our terms.

Since the Board began this effort, new developments have occurred that adds urgency to completing this task. At the February 13th Village Council meeting, residents from White Marlin, Sandy Point and Port Antigua made a presentation, including a video, that showed how bad the problem at the beach has become. Their objective was for the Village to pass an ordinance that would prohibit any vessel from mooring nearer than 300 feet to the shore along the entirety of the Port Antigua beach. Their presentation was so effective the Council was ready to act on the issue at the next meeting. In addition, the Council indicated that a review of the Village's liability regarding not acting might be in order. Please note that the presentation at this meeting was independent of your Board's current efforts, and the Council was made aware of the PAPOA's ongoing formal effort in Port Antigua. PAPOA requested that the Village delay any decision regarding our shoreline until more input could be gained from *all* Port Antigua residents. That time is now.

Your Board's recommendation is a reasonable compromise based on the results of the survey responses. Under it, the Village would create a "Vessel Exclusion Area/Swim Zone" buffer adjacent to our beach. Our proposal is that the roped off area would be fifty feet (50') shoreward of the existing three hundred foot "Idle/No Wake Zone" and run the entire length of the beach. No vessels including kayaks and paddle boards would be permitted in the swim area, but it would accommodate swimming, chairs, umbrellas and the like. This area would continue shoreward for one hundred fifty feet (150') where a second boundary would be established and run the length of the beach as well. From that boundary to the shoreline, one hundred feet (100'), swimmers, kayaks, and other non-powered vessels would be allowed. Please refer to the website for graphic depictions of these areas.

This proposal is a first step and will not eliminate all the bad behavior. We will still need to hire off-duty deputies on the busy weekends. It does, however, provide Port Antigua residents some access to the sand bar and our beach while significantly reducing the area available for "party boats." Your Board realizes that we will be trading unlimited access to the sand bar to gain a more secure and enjoyable beach experience. A great deal of thought and effort went into this proposal, and it addresses multiple issues. Absent your support for this proposal, the Board is of the opinion that the Village will move forward in some manner to address the significant concerns of residents living near the beach. In 2014 that approach was to designate the entire sand bar as a "Vessel Exclusion Zone".

Sincerely
PAPOA Board of Directors