

November 14, 2019

Mayor Judy Davies-Dunhour

Borough of Stone Harbor

9508 Second Avenue

Stone Harbor, NJ 08247

Subject: Beach 12 Month Action Items

Dear Judy,

I would like to start by thanking you for speaking at our SHPOA meetings in June and September. We receive broad and positive feedback for your presentations and openness to sharing topical information with our members. Secondly, please know that your support and communication with SHPOA is very much appreciated.

Of special recognition and merit is the Borough's work and communication efforts resulting in the re-opening of Hereford Inlet for non-emergency beach fills. We applaud your leadership and teamwork with Avalon and North Wildwood to skillfully deliver the facts that demonstrate the environmental benefits of recycling sand from prior beach fill projects to sustain healthy beaches in Stone Harbor. We encourage you to work closely with Congressional representatives to insure the appropriation of funds are available for beach renourishment in 2020.

Moving forward in 2020, SHPOA would like to submit recommendations and actions which are critical for the preservation of our valuable beaches. Many of these issues have been discussed with the Borough as part of the SHPOA sustainability program for our island. Our view has been and always will be that "*What happens to our beaches determines what happens to Stone Harbor*". It is our belief that without healthy beaches, Stone Harbor will no longer be considered a desired vacation destination. Borough economic issues become significantly more challenging as a result. As we prepare for the start of a new year, we respectfully ask the council to consider the following priority actions:

- Beach Maintenance Reserve Fund: Stone Harbor beaches are the essence of its charm and the driving force of the local economy's well-being. Yet, the 2019 Budget for support of natural resources unfortunately remains flat with 2018, which continues a practice of little to no reserves for sand nourishment. Given that beach replenishment/maintenance is an annual expense (not just every 3 years), SHPOA believes that it is vital that the Borough set aside between \$750,000 - \$1.0 million every year for the maintenance and nourishment of our

beaches. The beaches are critical protectors of the Borough from ocean storms and flooding and our members' number one priority for the people who live and play here.

- Annual Beach Sand Maintenance: In order to maintain consistency across all of our beaches, we support a plan to harvest and transfer sand from beaches that are gaining sand and help beaches that are losing it. Avalon does this as a routine operation. Given council's recent decision not to adopt US Army Corps recommendation for sand repositioning, we respectfully ask council, "*What are Borough plans for Spring 2020 if we experience winter/spring storms that impact our beaches?*" We have the equipment to move and reposition sand. As Stone Harbor is not scheduled for any replenishment over the next seven months, we respectfully request the council to develop contingency plans to reposition sand following the storm season for beach sections which already are or will become critically depleted.

- Continued monitoring of the Beach Profile by Center for Coastal Research (CRC): The Borough has and is continuing to monitor the beach profile in conjunction with the CRC. Use of this data to plan the timing of the nourishment program is critical. We encourage the sharing of these reports on the Borough website and with the SHPOA Beach and Bay Committee as soon as they become available.

Assuming we will need to replenish 700,000 cubic yards of sand again (based on 2017 numbers), the Borough needs to estimate the cost of the total project and further estimate what percentage of the total costs will be borne by the Borough.

Accordingly, SHPOA requests the council to build significant beach nourishment reserves, beginning with the 2020 budget. The Borough needs to have a plan on how it is going to fund its financial share for beach fill projects in 2020 - 2021 and future years that does not rely on bonds issuance.

Our members and the Beach and Bay Committee are committed to helping the Borough with these important matters. Please do not hesitate to involve us when assistance/consultation is desired.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Best Regards,

Bob Charamella

President, SHPOA