

SUNNY ISLES BEACH
Resort Association

March 23, 2009

Re: Miami-Dade County Haulover Park Clothing Optional & Top Free Beach

To Whom It May Concern:


I am taking the opportunity to write this letter to convey the favorable benefits our community has experienced as a result of the establishment of the Haulover Park Clothing Optional Beach.

In 1991, the naturist group known as South Florida Free Beaches first established a clothing optional beach at the north end of Haulover Beach Park. A few years later, our Association was approached by a group of naturists, requesting our organization's support to make our members aware of the popularity of this beach and our support was requested to cause the County to officially designate the beach area.

At that time our Board of Directors expressed concerns regarding public accessibility, public visibility, public acceptance, safety, crowd control, conduct, and other issues. In response to our members concerns, the naturist representatives, particularly Shirley & Richard Mason, responded to these issues and provided a scope of planning and cooperation that was favorably received. Thus, our Association committed its support and assisted in the presentations made to Miami-Dade County, seeking approval of beach designation. One-quarter of the two-mile Haulover Beach area was designated with official signage as a "clothing optional beach."

Our community, Sunny Isles Beach, is a vacation destination, immediately contiguous to Haulover Park. Our resorts and hotels serve guests from the United States, Europe, Canada and Latin America. Our European guests expect allowance to enjoy the beach top-free and it is granted.

In keeping with the commitments made, the Haulover Clothing Optional Beach has been rendered with added dune plantings that assure privacy from the roadway, and informational signage, that delineates the clothing optional beach area from the "textile" beach area.



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As a business and tourist-related industry association, we keep in close communication with the local police and park department authorities for obvious reasons. The clothing optional beach area has proven to be safe, is extremely clean, and as a result of self-regulation and self-policing by its attendees, through all these years there has been no reports of negative conduct nor any reported serious crime.

Relative to benefits, weekly our association office responds to numerous visitors' inquiries on the clothing-optional beach and requests for lodging arrangements, in order that guests may enjoy this resource. Well over one million people visit the clothing optional beach and the assigned parking area generates over \$1 million in annual revenue to the County. Additionally, our local restaurants and retailers also financially benefit from the infusion of these guests.

It is worth noting that the regional core of the naturist beach users: participate in assuring that the beach resources are maintained at the highest quality level; work with the county to initiate safety programs; organize fund raising efforts for needy causes; and effect social functions, which greatly add to the enjoyment of a beach visit.

In essence, the decision made almost a decade ago by our Board of Directors to support the establishment of a clothing optional beach has brought our community many positive returns.

Sunny Isles Beach Resort Association



Ibis Romero
Executive Director