



STAFF REPORT

City Commission Regular Meeting

February 27, 2025



To: Elected Officials

From: Dale L. Martin, City Manager

Date: February 17, 2025

Item Name: Consider a request for a Special Event that requires waivers for Section 6-5 (b) & (d) of the Flagler Beach Code of Ordinance to allow a Dog Surfing Contest within the banned area for dogs to be on the beach - Applicant Suzie Johnston.

Background: This is the third year the applicant has held the event. The event has grown after being featured in highlight reels on National News programs. Staff will work with the applicants regarding city services. The only consideration for the Commission pertains to waivers of the Code of Ordinance.

The following sections from the Code of Ordinance require the granting of a temporary waiver for the Special Event to take place as requested.

Sec. 6-5. - Dogs, horses, other animals on beach.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having under his or her control any dog or animal to permit such dog or animal upon the Atlantic Ocean Beach within the corporate limits of the city, from North Tenth Street to South Tenth Street. The provisions of this section shall not be intended to apply to Seeing Eye dogs properly trained to assist blind persons, when such dogs are actually being used by blind persons for the purpose of aiding them in going from place to place.

(d) Pets must be on a handheld leash/harness, not to exceed eight (8) feet in length, and under the control of the owner/handler. Any dog, cat, reptile, bird or other non-human creature (hereinafter referred to collectively in this subsection as an animal), whether a pet or not, which is brought or otherwise conveyed onto the beach must be wearing a collar, harness or other appropriate restraining device that is attached to a leash, chain, rope or other physical connector (hereinafter referred collectively in this subsection as a leash) that does not exceed eight (8) feet in length from animal to handler/owner and under the continuous physical control of the handler/owner either by the leash or being held in the hand of or in another manner attached to the handler/owner or by being attached to a physical location device that does not allow the animal to move further than the eight-foot length of the leash from the fixed location device. In all situations, it is the responsibility of the animal's handler/owner to be in control of the animal and to ensure that the animal does not frighten, endanger, or harm any person, pet or other natural creature and that the said animal does not do anything that would result in a violation of any of the ordinances of the city.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the Commission approve the waiver of Section 6-5 (b) & (d) for the duration of the event on May 17, 2025.

Attachment: Application, Site Plan, 501c3, Staff comments, Invoice estimate