

**From:** [Ingrid Allen](#)  
**To:** [Jaclyn Dehart](#)  
**Cc:** [Lanelda Gaskins](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Beach Rakers in Highland Beach  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2026 2:42:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [Mechanical Beach Cleaning Permit Conditions PB County 2026.pdf](#)

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Jaclyn:

I discussed with Marshall today, Chair Nestle's request below to place on the Board's next agenda a separate item regarding "beach raking permits." Marshall was OK with placing this topic on the agenda. Please include as backup materials the photo, attachment and correspondence below from FDEP.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ingrid Allen  
Town Planner

Town of Highland Beach  
3614 S. Ocean Boulevard  
Highland Beach FL 33487  
(561) 278-4540 Office (option 3)  
(561) 278-2606 Fax  
[www.highlandbeach.us](http://www.highlandbeach.us)

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Dear Ingrid,

I appreciate if you can share the below response from the FDEP with the Advisory Board in preparation for the upcoming meeting, and I further appreciate if we can put beach cleaning and permit onto the agenda.

The attached is frustrating news. I checked the wording of the permit, and there is indeed no definition of "beach cleaning"/no mention of specific duties. The license is all about turtle nest protection.

Thanks again, best Barbara

Barbara Nestle

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Shirah, Ginger K" <[Ginger.K.Shirah@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Ginger.K.Shirah@FloridaDEP.gov)>

Subject: FW: Beach Rakers in Highland Beach

Date: March 24, 2026 at 3:50:32 PM EDT

To: "[nesbarb@googlemail.com](mailto:nesbarb@googlemail.com)" <[nesbarb@googlemail.com](mailto:nesbarb@googlemail.com)>

Cc: "Kieckbusch, David" <[David.Kieckbusch@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:David.Kieckbusch@FloridaDEP.gov)>

Good afternoon Ms. Nestle,

Thank you for reaching out with your concerns regarding the mechanical beach cleaning in Highland Beach.

I can certainly understand the frustration with trash left on the beach, however the DEP permits that are issued to beach cleaners do not require that they pick up trash. Rather, the permit authorizes the mechanical beach cleaning activity to take place. It is true that in many places in Florida, beach raking occurs to deal with seaweed accumulation rather than trash pickup. I am not sure what license you are referring to in your email, but if there are local ordinances that are not being followed or contractual obligations that are not being fulfilled, I have no authority to enforce either of those.

What we require of the beach cleaners is expressed in their DEP permit

conditions, which are attached for reference. These conditions are clearly communicated to all permittees and are included with their permit package.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Thank you,

<<https://floridadep.gov/>>

<<https://floridadep.gov/>>

Ginger Shirah

Environmental Administrator

Beach Field Services

Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection

[Ginger.K.Shirah@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Ginger.K.Shirah@FloridaDEP.gov) <<mailto:Ginger.K.Shirah@FloridaDEP.gov>>

850.245.8524

From: Kieckbusch, David <[David.Kieckbusch@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:David.Kieckbusch@FloridaDEP.gov)  
<<mailto:David.Kieckbusch@FloridaDEP.gov>> >

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 2:57 PM

To: Shirah, Ginger K <[Ginger.K.Shirah@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Ginger.K.Shirah@FloridaDEP.gov)  
<<mailto:Ginger.K.Shirah@FloridaDEP.gov>> >

Subject: FW: Beach Rakers in Highland Beach

From: Barb Nes <[nesbarb@googlemail.com](mailto:nesbarb@googlemail.com) <<mailto:nesbarb@googlemail.com>>  
>

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 11:38 AM

To: Kieckbusch, David <[David.Kieckbusch@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:David.Kieckbusch@FloridaDEP.gov)  
<<mailto:David.Kieckbusch@FloridaDEP.gov>> >

Cc: Barb Nes <[nesbarb@googlemail.com](mailto:nesbarb@googlemail.com) <<mailto:nesbarb@googlemail.com>> >

Subject: Beach Rakers in Highland Beach

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

This email originated outside of DEP. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Dear David

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to you at the recommendation of Ingrid Allen at the Town of Highland Beach, regarding ongoing concerns with beach maintenance operations in our 3 miles of paradise:

As Chair of the Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board, I am concerned—along with our board members and local residents—by the recurring failure of Universal and Beach Rakers to adhere to the cleanup standards outlined in their permits.

According to the license, these contractors are required to remove larger debris and litter. However, we consistently observe larger pieces of trash being either left on the sand or buried beneath it. See picture attached.

On multiple occasions, workers have informed me that their primary responsibility is solely to mix seaweed with the sand (where they have a contract with the homeowner), rather than performing active large piece trash collection.

I appreciate your clarifications regarding:

1. What are the specific FDEP regulations regarding trash removal versus mechanical sand/seaweed mixing for these contractors who have contracts in place with beach front homeowners?

2. Could you please communicate these expectations directly to Universal and Beach Rakers to ensure they are fulfilling their permitted obligations?

Our beach community is committed to the health of our nature, and we want to ensure that those licensed to maintain beaches are held to the proper standards.

I very much appreciate your assistance with this.

Best regards,

Barbara

Barbara Nestle

Sent from my iPhone

<<http://survey.dep.state.fl.us/?refemail=Ginger.K.Shirah@FloridaDEP.gov>>