



Memorandum

Meeting Details: October 22, 2025 – Board of Commissioners Regular Workshop Meeting
Prepared For: Honorable Mayor Brooks and the Board of Commissioners
Staff Contact: Community Development Department (Marci Forbes)
Subject: Restrictions within Swim Zones

Background & Discussion:

At the request of the Board of Commissioners, City Staff has begun researching activities that are permitted or are not permitted within our designated swim zones. This research is being done to determine if limited and controlled commercial sales could be conducted within these zones if reasonable changes were made to our ordinances. Also, City Staff was asked to review adjacent communities to better understand their allowances and what measures they have in place for managing and monitoring. Our overall goal was to better understand if well defined, small watercraft could be allowed to enter a swim zone under specific criteria such that they could sell items such as fruit and could our ordinances be revised to allow for this business model.

As of the drafting of this memo city staff has consulted with representatives of St. Pete Beach and were able to confirm they do not allow business operations as described above or were discussed during the September 24, 2025, BOC Workshop Meeting. While their ordinance has specific allowances for entry into and exit from designated swim zones, the ordinance does not allow for any vessel to stop within the zone and conduct business. This ordinance has been included in this agenda packet.

General research has not found any local ordinance verbiage which allows for operation of a watercraft for commercial sales within designated swim zones. While this does not mean the changing of our ordinances cannot be proposed and discussed, it simply means it will take more research and time other than that of relying upon established ordinances.

Fiscal Impact:

Increased monitoring of water-based businesses might require additional staff and equipment. Changing the ordinances will require subconsultant support thus increasing professional services cost overall.

Recommendation(s):

City Staff is requesting the BOC to provide direction for moving forward.

Attachments/Correspondent Documents :

- St. Pete Beach Ordinance 2011-14