

Kendal's Korner - March 2024

Welcome to Kendal's Korner. This site is designed as a means for me to communicate with you the public to help keep you updated on what is happening in Jamaica Beach. My plan is to begin posting a monthly Administrator's update, provide answers to Frequently Asked Questions, along with discussing other key items of interest.

I did not intend for my first post to be about such a controversial topic, but we might as well jump right into the deep end.

If you tuned into the March 14th council meeting, you heard that I have decided to place porta potties on the beach. I understand that this is unprecedented, and the uncertainty associated with change can be scary. My hope is that providing you with more information will address concerns and allay fears.

The plan is to install three (3) groups of two (2) porta potties (1 standard & 1 handicapped accessible) for a total of six (6). One group each will be placed near the trash dumpsters at the 15 Mile Road and Buccaneer entrances to the beach and the 3rd will be slightly off the beach on a parcel of county owned property approximately mid-point of the beach. [Please see the PDF map for locations.](#)

The toilets will be emptied a minimum of 1 time per week to begin. However, I expect that frequency will need to increase as the crowds increase. Our maintenance staff will monitor their cleanliness and stock them with toiletries.

I understand that a porta potty is not the most attractive of structures. The plan is to eventually provide privacy screening around them to help alleviate concerns with aesthetics.

The cost for the toilets will be approximately \$12,000. That number will adjust based on how often they are emptied. There will be additional costs for toiletries and staff to maintain them. The entire endeavor will be 100% funded by the Hotel Occupancy Tax.

My team and I are approaching this as a pilot study. We are fully aware that issues may develop. However, our belief is that introducing a small sample size allows us to easily monitor the project, address issues as they develop, and adjust the plan to prevent repeat issues. If it proves successful, we can expand it. Or if it proves to create more problems than it solves, we will remove them.

The final thing I want to address is why am I doing this? The simple answer is because I believe it is the right thing to do. I am not trying to attract more people to the beach. The fact is the people are already here. Our beach is popular, and we frequently reach maximum capacity. What I am trying to do is make it more family friendly and sanitary. For those who do not live here, "running home" is not an

option and it's not always practical even for those who do live here. When viable options do not exist, people will create their own indiscreet and unsanitary ones.

I hope that this provides you with a clearer understanding of the “What?” & “Whys?” of the project. If you have any additional questions, please email me at kfrancis@jamaicabeachtx.gov.

Thank you.

Kendal Francis
City Administrator